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Maximum of 3 pages

Developing a Community of Digital Nurse and Midwife Researchers

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Abstract. Despite nurses and midwives taking on digital leadership roles and influencing the future of healthcare, there is a scarcity of research in the United Kingdom on the development of their roles and processes.

In this workshop, we will discuss digital nursing leaders and their roles within academic communities. We will also consider the strategies to adopt to link into existing research networks and how to investigate the paradigm shift in nursing and midwifery catalysed by information technology.

In our discussion, we will increase awareness of the research capabilities of the digital nursing and midwifery workforce. Hosting the workshop will help support a proposal for an ongoing project that enhances digital nursing and midwifery research skills and networks. The workshop will provide a platform for a digital nursing and midwifery research community of practice.

Keywords. Digital Nursing Research, Capacity Building, Workforce Development

1. Introduction

Nurses and midwives are leading the current healthcare digital revolution. There has been a paradigm shift in nursing owing to the impact of information technology calling for new models and ways of working [1]. While nurses and midwives are taking on digital leadership roles and creating knowledge with implications for the future of healthcare, there is little to no research in the United Kingdom about how their roles and processes are emerging.

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Even though digital nurses and midwives have many social media connections, their links with the nursing, midwifery, and allied health professional (NMAHP) academic community are weak.

Nursing informatics is a specialty that integrates nursing science and information science in order to manage and communicate data, information, knowledge, and wisdom [2]. The digital nurse community risks overlooking opportunities to exploit the data in digital systems such as artificial intelligence systems and big data to investigate how digital transformation affects practice and patient care and captures new wisdom. Investigating how these roles have emerged, and their knowledge-creating practices are needed. A further question concerns how it might be possible to inculcate a digital nurse research community. The benefits will help us sustain the digital nursing workforce for the future and inform practice, policy, education, and research. The benefits will contribute to the NMAHP research agenda, impacting patient care.

2. Workshop Topic Description and Relevance

We aim to begin a dialogue with delegates at the International Nursing Informatics Conference, who are representatives of the national and international digital nursing and midwifery workforce. We propose to facilitate a workshop-focused discussion on:

- Identifying digital nursing leaders, who they are, how they operate and how they link with relevant academic communities.
- How can we establish strategies for developing a digital research community by linking into existing networks?

This work would create the evidence needed to write a proposal to lead a project that develops the research capacity and network of our digital nursing and midwifery colleagues.

The project fits within the strategies of major funding bodies such as the Burdett Trust, which recognizes the fundamental role of the workforce who deliver care to patients whilst transforming the patient care environment as well as the NIHR who are committed to developing the research capabilities of under-represented groups to improve patient outcomes and promote workforce retention.

3. Introduction of Workshop Presenters

We are a group of nurse and digital health care researchers and clinicians in the digital space from Oxford Brookes University, The University of Manchester, The University of Salford and the NHS working locally and nationally. Workshop Structure

4. Participant Objectives

- To raise awareness of the capacity and capability of the digital nursing/midwifery workforce as clinical academics

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- To promote a discussion about the potential research opportunities within digital nursing and midwifery roles

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