

Leading the Royal College of Nursing eHealth Programme

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Presenting Authors – as above

The RCN's eHealth Programme was established after a very successful two day workshop in January 2008, involving a staff from a very wide range of departments e.g. policy, media, parliamentary, web, media and Information in Nursing Forum members.

The term eHealth includes all applications of information management and ICT in health care delivery:

- Telemedicine/telehealth (e.g. remote consultation and diagnosis)
- Telecare (e.g. assistive technology in people's homes)
- Biometrics (electronic systems for measuring, recording, or monitoring physiological status)
- Electronic health-related knowledge sources (for health professionals, patients and public)
- Computerised information systems, including electronic patient records
- Computerised decision support systems (e.g. NHS Direct algorithms)
- ICT applications developed in other fields and now used in healthcare delivery (e.g. email, mobile phones)
- Other applications included in the four government programmes (e.g. e-prescribing, PACS)

Over the last 2 years we have:

- produced a range of online guidance and policies:
 - Putting information at the heart of nursing care
 - Make IT safe
 - Nursing content of electronic patient / client records
 - Confidentiality
 - Legal advice for RCN members using the internet
- launched web pages
- run events and workshops
- produced action plans and communication and media strategies
- answered member enquiries
- responded to official consultations

Our presentation will include:

- Introduction to ourselves, our backgrounds and current roles:
- Introduction to the Programme – background, definitions, aims, etc.
- Demonstrate of the products we have produced, including a live demo of the digital stories on telecare and the learning opportunities on our Learning Zone.
- How we have established collaborative working, including using new technologies, such as wikis

The RCN has very recently been successful in a sponsorship bid for funding from Intel for £80,000 and will be producing a series of online digital stories and running a series of 15 workshops across the UK, all on the theme of telecare. Workshops will include information sessions on RCN products and services, speakers from all 4 National Programmes across the UK, a wide range of nurses talking about local initiatives and a Question and Answer panel session.

Angela Perrett, project manager for the Programme, and Jackie Cheeseborough, strategic lead, both have extensive health library backgrounds, so this presentation also contributes to the theme of the diversification of the roles of health librarians in the 21st century. Leading a UK-wide and very diverse team, we can also demonstrate the practical use of communication technologies e.g. wikis, in the implementation of the eHealth Programme.