Leading the Royal College of Nursing eHealth Programme

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EAHIL conference 2010

Objectives of session

- To define eHealth
- To describe RCN's eHealth Programme and its products
- To describe our ways of working
- To examine our changing roles as librarians

Who we are

- Royal College of Nursing of the UK World's largest professional union for nurses

- Jackie Cheeseborough: RCN lead for Library and Information Services, Archives, Knowledge Management and eHealth

Who we are

- Angela Perrett : RCN Library and Information Services Manager for Wales.

- Seconded as eHealth Project Manager for 2 years

RCN Library and Information Services

- One of the largest nursing libraries in Europe based in London
- Extensive e-library
  - Range of databases
  - Over 700 online journals
  - Over 400 e-books
- Libraries in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- Archives

eHealth
technology in practice

Royal College
of Nursing

eLife?

The use of information and communication technology in:

- Banking
- Retail
- Travel
- Entertainment
- Social engagement

eHealth is…

The use of computers and telecommunications in health care

eHealth includes…

Health information systems and electronic health records
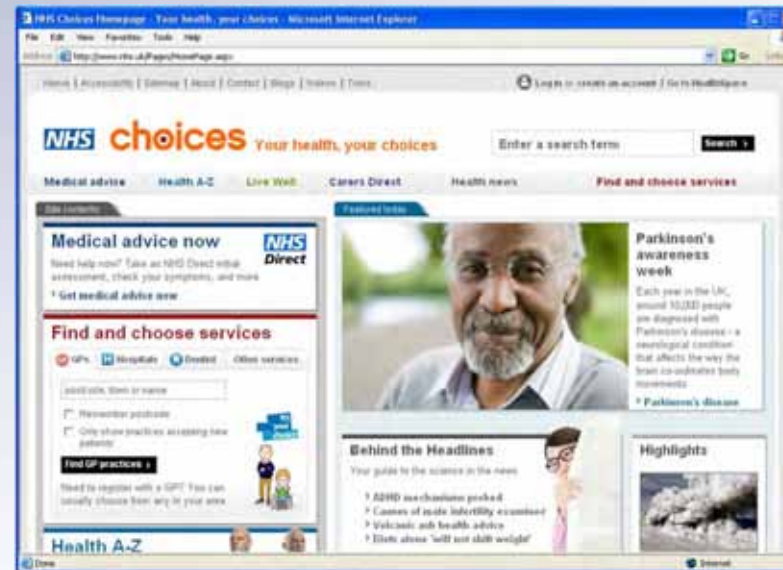
eHealth includes…

Telehealth

– Home monitoring, video consultations, telephone triage…

eHealth includes…

Knowledge resources
- Online advice, health web sites…

eHealth is not just about technology
It is about using technology to communicate more effectively, to collaborate and to make better decisions

eHealth also involves…

Managing information

Keeping information secure

Maintaining confidentiality

Keeping accurate records

Keeping patients safe

'Nurses need to be at the forefront of embracing IT' & *the work of the RCN 'is beginning to propel us into the new era of eHealth.'*

Peter Carter, RCN chief Executive,
RCN Congress 2008

RCN Strategic priorities 2008-13

"Become an acknowledged leader in e-health"

eHealth Programme

- eHealth strategic lead
- eHealth project manager
- eHealth Adviser
- Information Standards Adviser
- eHealth Leads in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- eHealth staff group
- Information in Nursing Forum members

eHealth Programme ways of working

- Programme Board
- Staff group: communications/media
- Project management: action plans
- Joint working with members
- UK wide: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- New ways of working : wikis

Strategic objectives

- Become an acknowledged leader in eHealth
- Preparing nurses for electronic health record, telecare and other IT applications
- Embedding eHealth into all aspects of nursing education

What we have produced

- Print and online guidance:
  - Putting information at the heart of nursing care
  - Make IT SAFER
  - Nursing content of eHealth records
  - Patient consent and eHealth records
  - Legal advice for RCN members using the internet

What we have produced

- eHealth web pages
- Events and workshops
- Answered members' enquiries
- Responded to official consultations
- Online learning resources
- Digital stories

How our roles have changed

- Leading cross departmental teams
- More involvement in external political activities
- Working with external sponsors
- Contact with the media
- Close working with member activists
- Better knowledge of the RCN

Conclusion

- Nurses' decision making requires the ability to find, interpret and use information

- Leading the eHealth agenda has positioned RCN Librarians at the heart of the RCN

James - Breathless