

Symposium Translating Research into Practice: Heart Care: Custom Computer Support for Home Care

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The purpose of this study was to design a Technology Enhanced Practice (TEP) for patients with heart failure receiving home health care services, and to close the gap among consumer health informatics tools, best practice, and home health nursing. We report here a work analysis and design activities for the technology intervention. We used a Human Factors approach to design the TEP. Through an in-depth work analysis, we developed a model of the core functions of nursing practice, we conducted focus groups to solicit nurses input, and developed the functional requirements for a computer system to support best practice of heart failure patients in home health care. For example, core nursing functions are assess, detect changes, and enable patients to self-monitor a chronic disease. Technology-based interventions supporting these functions included nurse and patient information support, and tools for active self-monitoring of symptoms and decision support, delivered via the Internet.