EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues,

The 21st century named as the "information age" or the "digital age" is also an era during which we have witnessed numerous changes. These changes have occurred not only in information and technologies but also in climate, environment, demographic structure, healthcare services, and education. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic, which has remained on the agenda across the world for one year and forced us to change our lifestyle, has been added to the environmental changes. Keeping up and coping with the experiences has also been forcing professions, as well as individuals and communities, to change. Meanwhile, information technologies have come to the fore as the most important tool in coping with all these changes every day, from our daily routines at home to our behaviors and attitudes in our workplaces.

Informatics has been used in many areas in the health sector from diagnosis to treatment and recording, to ensuring that the data are accessible and available to use, and to producing new products. Therefore, the healthcare professionals who understand informatics and can efficiently use information technologies gain greater importance. In this regard, the field of nursing should focus on effective and efficient use of informatics practices and technologies in education, clinical care, and research.

Although the essence of nursing profession based on interpersonal communication and interactions, nurses who encounter new information technologies at each step of healthcare service should rapidly adapt to and efficiently use them. While nurses are the largest and most important population of users of health informatics practices in the health care services, they have little effect on the analysis, design, and development of these systems. Preparedness of nurses for computer and information technologies is also important for the development of nursing informatics and information systems. Therefore, since the basic computer use skills is not enough anymore, nursing education should also provide information about the concepts, methods, skill, and specialties in health information systems. How to obtain, communicate, store and manage nursing data, and how to turn them into useful /fruitful information are among the subjects of nursing informatics. Nurses' daily actions should be supported with informatics. To do this, more human-computer interaction studies are needed in the field of nursing. These studies cover design, implementation and assessment of usable and effective information systems in healthcare. Although an information system means speed and security for those who are consumer of the health services, it may cause complexities and slowdowns when it cannot respond to the needs, abilities, and knowledge of healthcare professionals and service providers are not prepared.

The use of informatics, which can be defined as processing information through computers and similar devices, in psychiatric nursing seems harder compared to the other fields of nursing, and yet it should be attached great importance. Collection, processing, and assessment of nursing data and actions performed through informatics will make psychiatric care an evidence-based practice. Further education and research is needed to produce easy- and fast-to-use applications and programs for users.

Previous studies conducted in Turkey on nursing informatics have generally analyzed the attitudes toward informatics or the data sets; therefore, recording and practice systems that turn the data of nursing practices into information are needed. Informatics programs that facilitate nursing practices and measure their results should be developed. Accordingly, preparedness for information technologies should be ensured in undergraduate and postgraduate education and doctoral studies should be conducted on this subject, which will determine the future of nursing.

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