

# Establishing a Process for Reducing Nursing Documentation Burden Through Discrete Data Analysis

Cassandra Hunter, MSN, RN, CPNP

*Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA*

**Keywords:** Clinical Documentation, Process Change, Reducing documentation burden, nursing documentation

## Introduction/Background

Electronic medical record implementation has transformed paper documentation into electronic workflows often adding new documentation but rarely taking away from the process. Documentation must support the high-quality care provided and meet regulatory requirements without causing documentation burden [1]. To reduce documentation burden, nursing admission and discharge forms are optimized and standardized through nursing-led workgroups [2].

## Methods

Boston Children's Hospital participated in a multi-center national effort to establish an Admission Pediatric Essential Clinical Data (ECD) set. Nursing admission forms were included in the scope of the project. The group conducted a literature review and established guiding principles for evaluation of forms. Utilization data was extracted per hospital and included form, section, and event code. This data was analyzed using the guiding principles, regulatory requirements and evidence-based practice. A workgroup was formed at Boston Children's Hospital to replicate the Pediatric ECD process with localization to account for state regulations and hospital policies that may differ. The workgroup has enhanced the initial guiding principles to include next steps for fields being removed and to assess impact on other workflows. Nurses were also surveyed to establish satisfaction with admission history documentation.

## Results

Preliminary results show that these work efforts have significantly reduced form sections and individual event codes. We expect this will lead to a reduction in documentation burden and increased nursing satisfaction measured by a post implementation survey and utilization data.

Table 1: ECD project results

	Sections	Event codes
Vendor prior to ECD project	35	359
Project participants (average)	27	333
Boston Children's Hospital before project	39	606
Vendor After ECD project (draft)	12	83

## Discussion/Conclusion

This project has led to an effective workflow for evaluating and optimizing nursing documentation. While we continue to pilot the process with the admission assessment we are expanding the work to include additional forms including those within the discharge process. The process will be replicated to streamline and reduce the documentation burden across the different hospital venues and enhance the nursing patient care experience.

## References

1. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT - healthit.gov. (2018, November). Retrieved March 1, 2019, from [https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/page/2018-11/Draft Strategy on Reducing Regulatory and Administrative Burden Relating.pdf](https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/page/2018-11/Draft%20Strategy%20on%20Reducing%20Regulatory%20and%20Administrative%20Burden%20Relating%20to%20Digital%20Health)
2. Ommaya, A. K., Cipriano, P. F., Hoyt, D. B., Horvath, K. A., Tang, P., Paz, H. L., . . . Sinsky, C. A. (2018, August 17). Care-Centered Clinical Documentation in the Digital Environment: Solutions to Alleviate Burnout. Retrieved March 1, 2019, from <https://nam.edu/care-centered-clinical-documentation-digital-environment-solutions-alleviate-burnout/>