

## **CREATION OF AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR NURSING DOCUMENTATION IN QATAR: AN EXPLORATORY SEQUENTIAL MIXED METHODS STUDY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study was carried out using an exploratory sequential mixed methods design by the researcher to develop and employ a quantitative survey to evaluate the current situation and influencing factors of the ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSESSMENT TOOL.

The first phase (Phase 1) was based on a phenomenological approach to collecting data from nurse experts to explore their experiences in documentation using the Electronic Health Record through semi-structured interviews. From the experiences of the 15 participants, the researchers identified five major themes, including (1) Ensuring Data Safety and Security Issues (Data); (2) Enhancing Patient Care Coordination Issues (Patient Care); (3) Stabilizing the Clinical-Based Decision-Making Issues (CDSS); (4) Safeguarding Recording and Reporting Issues (Reporting and Documentation); (5) Resolving Technical Issues (Technology).

The next step (Phase 2) is to construct the actual items of the scale based on the themes gathered in the interview. For validity and reliability, the scale constructed was submitted to five (5) panels of nursing experts. For reliability, thirty-six (36) nurses who met the inclusion criteria were requested to participate. A two-part developed survey included forty-five (45) items in the questionnaire entitled "ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSESSMENT TOOL (EHRQAAT)"; it contains the demographic information and, in the second part, the five dimensions of the EHRQAAT.

The last phase (Phase 3) was quantitative research, its aim to evaluate the quality of nursing documentation using Electronic Health Record using the newly developed tool. A total of 200 nurses, who have experience in utilizing electronic health record working across the globe. A total of 200 nurses were invited to participate in the survey. These nurses were working in facilities that utilize electronic documentation in the following countries: Qatar, Philippines, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Singapore, United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia. These countries were purposely selected by the researcher to obtain diverse results that would aid in the analysis and development of a robust tool. Data analysis was performed using SPSS version 29.0 to conduct descriptive statistics for the measurements in the quantitative research.

The conclusion of the study highlighted several key outcomes: the effectiveness of the EHRQAAT, the key aspects it addressed, its global applicability, the enhancement of nursing leadership and staff development, and the improvement of patient care and safety.

Implications of the Study for Practice, Education, and Research: In practice, the study boosts quality assurance and operational efficiency in healthcare by offering the EHRQAAT as a structured and reliable tool to assess and enhance electronic health record systems. In education, the study's findings can be incorporated into nursing and healthcare management curricula to teach future professionals the importance of quality assurance in EHR systems. In research, the

EHRQAAT's development and validation lay a robust groundwork for future studies in the field of electronic health records.

**Recommendations Based on the Study Findings:** The study proposes several recommendations like implement and extensively use the EHRQAAT, provide training and professional development, engage in continuous monitoring and improvement, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, conduct further research and development, adopt global best practices, and establish user feedback mechanisms.

**Keywords:** Nursing Assessment tool, data security issues, Data safety, enhancing patient care, safeguarding recording and reporting issues, resolving technical issues