NURSING SUPPLY MANAGEMENT DATABASE: ANSWER TO THE NIGHTMARE
Track 1: Organization and Management of Nursing Skills Laboratories
Abstract Submitted for Paper Presentation

Patricia Ravert, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor (801-422-1167; patricia_ravert@byu.edu)
College of Nursing, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Robert Bradford, Bachelor of Science in Accounting (801-735-4283; Robert@griffio.com)
Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Colleen Tingey, RN, BS, Nursing Learning Center Coordinator
(801-422-3954; colleen_tingey@byu,edu)
College of Nursing, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Purposes/Aims: Nursing skill laboratories use a variety of disposable and reusable medical supplies to aid students in the learning process. Much employee time and effort was required to determine needs, order supplies, and monitor usage. Determining the quantity of supplies needed was cumbersome and time-consuming and each order had to be typed by hand in a word processing program. With the desire to save money, time, and ensure adequate supplies, computer software was sought. Evaluation of currently available inventory software revealed only programs designed for large agencies with large inventories, such as hospitals. The purpose of the project was to create a computer software program suitable for inventory and ordering of nursing skill laboratory supplies.

Description of Project: Initially, several meetings were held to determine the needs of the nursing department regarding the management of lab supplies. After these requirements were delineated, design of the database proceeded. A database was developed using Microsoft Access due to its wide use and availability. The move toward a new method of inventory and ordering laboratory supplies led to re-evaluation of procedures and policies regarding the ordering, receipt, storage, and use of supplies. As launch of the system neared, current supplies were counted and organized. An initial run allowed the users to become comfortable with the new routine and uncovered some additional glitches. Issues related to the program itself and its interface with our procedures were identified and resolved.

Outcomes: The Nursing Supply Management Database saves employee time in determining inventory levels, the amount of supplies needed, and the amount to be ordered. At any given time, an inventory of supplies on hand and a record of supplies used in a given time period is available. It is anticipated that after using the program over the period of one or two years, it will be possible to accurately calculate the amount spent on supplies per student per year, thus enabling more accurate budgeting.

Conclusions and Recommendation for Future: The Nursing Supply Management Database is an effective labor-saving program for ordering and tracking supplies, as well as assisting with budgeting financial resources. Future helpful developments would be modification to include the use of a barcode scanner to further decrease employee time in manually entering item numbers into the database.