

FINDINGS OF THE 2004 INTERNATIONAL TELENURSING SURVEY

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This abstract will be presented by Diane Castelli with permission of abstract authors

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Telenursing is defined as “the use of telemedicine technology to deliver nursing care and conduct nursing practice” (Schlachta & Sparks, 1998). Through Telenursing, a nurse can provide monitoring, education, follow-up, remote data collection, remote interventions, pain management, family support, and multidisciplinary care in an innovative fashion. This presentation will provide the results of the 2004-2005 International Telenursing Online Survey which targeted telenurses who were actively practicing in telenursing or who were working for an organization that supported telehealth/telemedicine. The purpose of the survey was to identify 1) Telenurses’ satisfaction with their current telenursing role 2) specific telenursing knowledge and skills 3) perceptions about effectiveness of telehealth as a nurse extender 4) demand for telenurses worldwide 5) types of knowledge and skills needed by telenurses.

Over 1700 persons accessed the survey online. There were 719 nurses from 36 countries who completed the survey. Sixty-six percent of respondents were from the United States, where 49 of 50 states were represented. Canada had the second largest number of respondents. The average telehealth nurse was female 48 years old and had received on the job training in telehealth to achieve expertise. Survey respondents indicated that currently the demand for telenurses is moderate, however, a sharp increase in the demand is expected within three years. The majority of telenurses surveyed are not certified in telemedicine, telenursing, or nursing informatics and believe that certification in telenursing is important and would be interested in achieving certification and indicate that telenursing should be part of basic nursing education and clinical experiences. Future growth and development of the telenursing role and education can be measured against these findings.

Note: This research was funded in part by grant number N00014-04-1-0516 from the Office of Naval Research, and iTelehealth Inc. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Naval Research, the US Department of Defense or the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. The views presented are those of the authors and do not in any way reflect the official position of the US Navy or the US military.

Keywords: telenursing 1, telehealth nursing 2, international telenursing 3, technology in nursing 4