

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVED EDUCATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE ACADEMIC SETTING

SUBMITTED BY: California Nursing Students' Association

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1 **WHEREAS,** in 2004, President Bush mandated the implementation and availability of
2 electronic health records (EHRs) to “the majority of Americans...within
3 10 years” through Executive Order 13335 (Thompson, Brailer, & the U.S.
4 Department of Health and Human Services, 2004, introductory letter, & p.
5 iii) with \$100 million being proposed in federal grants to provide various
6 hospitals with EHR infrastructures (Tieman, 2004, p. 18); and
7 **WHEREAS,** 74 percent of hospitals surveyed cited “clinical information systems as the
8 most important healthcare application for their organizations” (Healthcare
9 Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), 2002, p. 3); and
10 **WHEREAS,** one study indicated that nursing students’ and faculty’s actual knowledge
11 and use of health information technology (HIT) failed to meet the
12 expectations of healthcare employers (Chastain, 2002, p. 190); and
13 **WHEREAS,** “integrating information technology content into undergraduate nursing
14 curricula is imperative to help nursing students gain the necessary skills
15 for successful employment” (McCannon and O’Neal, 2003, p. 340); and
16 **WHEREAS,** one survey cited “46 percent of nursing programs reported either no future
17 plans or no knowledge of any plans to offer information technology
18 education or training in their region” (McNeil, Elfrink, Bickford, Pierce,

19 Beyea, Averill, & Klappenback, 2003, p. 346); and
20 **WHEREAS,** the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) suggests that
21 information and healthcare technologies should be considered “core
22 knowledge” for the contemporary nurse (AACN, 1998, p. 12-14);
23 therefore be it
24 **RESOLVED,** that National Nursing Students’ Association send a letter to the Dean of
25 the School of Nursing of each NSNA chapter advocating the integration of
26 HIT into their student curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate levels
27 where applicable; and be it further
28 **RESOLVED,** that NSNA propose the following criteria as the minimum requirement for
29 preparation in HIT for students and faculty as recommended by
30 McCannon and O’Neal (2003): inclusion of courses in specific criteria
31 areas (general computer use, current nursing software, electronic health
32 records, computerized drug administration, database queries via internet,
33 computerized physician order entry (CPOE), and computerized bedside
34 charting), and provide students with practical exposure through learning
35 modules and clinical settings that use HIT, if feasible; and be it further
36 **RESOLVED,** that NSNA urge faculty members from each NSNA chapter to pursue
37 continuing education in HIT in order to properly equip students in the use
38 of contemporary nursing technology; and be it further
39 **RESOLVED,** that NSNA promote awareness in this area through student-aimed
40 publications, such as *Imprint*; and be it further
41 **RESOLVED,** that NSNA send copies of this resolution for review to the following:

42 American Nurses Association, American Association of Colleges of
43 Nursing, American Nursing Informatics Association, National Council
44 State Boards of Registered Nursing, National League for Nursing, and any
45 other organizations deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.