New Nurse Preparedness to use EHRs

A study in the Online Journal of Nursing Informatics identified gaps that existed between how new nurses assess their knowledge and EHR skills compared to how nursing managers view those same skills in short-term clinical settings. The survey responses revealed gaps in 13 of 28 knowledge and skill areas considered critical to effective EHR use. EHRs need to be more widely taught in nursing schools and made an integral part of the curriculum, to ensure new nurses are adequately prepared for the workforce. Consider these stats:

- **90%** of New/Novice Nurses participated in EHR training at their jobs.
- **75%** of Nurse Managers said EHR was a part of their curriculum during nursing school.
- **20%** of New/Novice Nurses and **7%** of Nurse Managers reported receiving more than 24 hours of EHR workplace training.
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When EHR workplace training is offered, 39% of

- **9-16 hours** Newer Nurses reported receiving anywhere from:
- **24 hours** Nurse Managers reported receiving more than:

**over 60%** of Nursing Managers agreed it took new nurses more than 2 months to be proficient using EHRs.

Nurse Managers identified the following critical skills as areas in need of development:

- Spreadsheet development
- Patient education documentation
- Data entry
- Lab results retrieval
- Medication administration
- Diagnostics results retrieval
- Documentation
- Accessing electronic charts contents
- Treatment documentation
- Accessing prior admission data
- Graphics documentation and tracking
- Care plan development and updates
- Patient education material retrieval
- Discharge planning documentation and updates


To learn more about how novice nurses are getting better trained on EHR use, please visit NursingEducation.lww.com/DocuCare