The Omaha System Top Ten

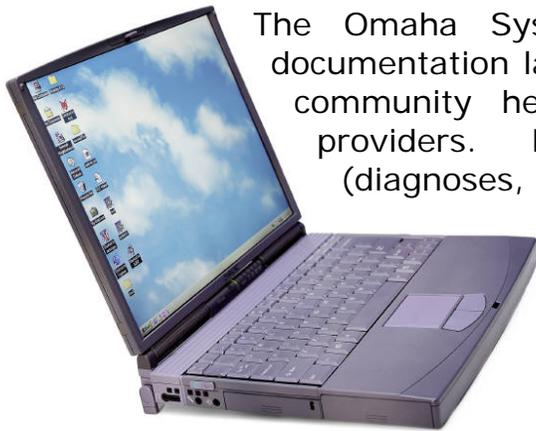If you would like more information on the Omaha System and to see who else uses it, visit the Minnesota Omaha System Users Group site at http://omahasystemmn.org/

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What is the Omaha System?

The Omaha System is a research-based, standardized clinical documentation language (taxonomy) designed to meet the needs of community health nurses and other community-based health providers. It includes all three critical components of care (diagnoses, interventions and outcomes) and was specifically designed to facilitate the statistical analysis of data.

The Top Ten Reasons to Use the Omaha System

1. It's Global:

The Omaha System is a dynamic and user-friendly language used in countries throughout the world.

2. It's Powerful:

Use of the Omaha System is a powerful tool within practice, education, and research settings. Automated documentation systems based on the Omaha System, such as Nightingale Notes, provide persuasive and effective means for data collection, aggregation, and analysis by administrators and clinicians.

3. Networking Opportunities Abound:

The Omaha System network of users is a dynamic and cooperative group, with many opportunities to ask questions and share ideas and developments via the Omaha System website, the Omaha System ListServ, and regional user groups.

4. Get Credit for What You Do:

The Omaha System accurately reflects community health nursing practice as well as the practice of other community-based health providers (use of the Omaha System doesn't change WHAT you do, but to capture, get credit, and measure what you are ALREADY doing). It provides any program with measurable outcomes anyone can understand (including revenue sources)! Being able to measure outcomes allows you to benefit your clients, benefit your staff, and provide objective data to show others what you do AND how well you do it.

5. History of Validity:

The Omaha System has been extensively tested for reliability and validity.

6. Useful at Any Level:

The Omaha System is not limited to the assessment, interventions, and measurement of outcomes at the individual or family level. It can also be used at the community level to assess, plan, execute, and measure community-based interventions, such as educational programs.

7. Efficient Charting:

The Omaha System provides a means by which various disciplines in community health settings can document care in a *flexible*, *comprehensive*, and *concise* manner. The Omaha System sharply reduces narrative notes.

8. Legal Situations:

Using the Omaha System can help you if your records are called into a legal setting! Use of the Omaha System allows the clinician to chart in an accurate, concise, consistent, and structured manner—all definite advantages when records are involved in any legal action.

9. Recognition of Trends:

Use of the Omaha System enables recognition of data trends and documentation of progress towards Healthy People 2020 goals! The Omaha System allows programs to recognize data trends in client characteristics, permitting identification and prioritization of community needs and allocation of resources. The Omaha System has been used in many agencies to accurately document progress towards Healthy People 2010 goals.

10. Well Supported:

The Omaha System is an important part of major national health language systems and standards! Recognized by the American Nurses Association since 1992, the Omaha System passed the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) Tier 2 selection criteria for a Use Case in 2007. It is integrated into the National Library of Medicine's Metathesaurus; CINAHL; ABC Codes; NIDSEC; Logical Observation Identifiers, Names, and Codes (LOINC®); and SNOMED CT®. It is registered (recognized) by Health Level Seven (HL7®), and is congruent with the reference terminology model for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It is being mapped to International Classification of Nursing Practice (ICNP®). Omaha System documentation is congruent with the Joint Commission and Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) standards. (The preceding information is from the Omaha System website www.omahasystem.org)