Nutrition Informatics Committee (NIC) and Interoperability and Standards Committee (ISC) Action Plan Workgroup June 2017

Informatics-Related Abbreviations and Definitions

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<th>Nutrition Informatics:</th>
<th>Interoperability:</th>
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<td>“the intersection of information, nutrition, and technology”</td>
<td>“Right data for the right patient at the right time”</td>
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Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONC): Health and Human Services Agency that leads national health IT efforts, charged as the principal federal entity to coordinate nationwide efforts to implement and use the most advanced health information technology and the electronic exchange of health information.

Health Level Seven (HL7), not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited standards developing organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services.

Virtual Spring 2016 HOD Meeting Dialog: Technological Innovations that Impact Food and Nutrition

The purpose of the dialogue was for meeting participants to:

1. Recognize current and projected technological innovations related to food and nutrition.
2. Explain how evolving technologies impact our practice.
3. Propose strategies to help members shift to higher level skills and services that cannot be automated or programmed into technological systems.
4. Generate ideas of technological innovations that RDNs and NDTRs can spearhead.
5. Identify strategies for empowering members to transform practice through technology.

HOD Motion #1: Action Plan Creation

As a result of the dialogue, the following motions were approved:

1. The Nutrition Informatics Committee review the input from the Spring 2016 HOD Meeting dialogue, create an action plan and recommendations to address the dialogue objectives, and communicate the plan to the HOD by the Fall 2016 HOD Meeting.
2. All Academy organizational units identify and promote best practices related to technology and integrate technological innovations that impact food and nutrition into their program of work.
3. The Academy create a hub on the Academy website where technology resources related to food and nutrition are shared.
4. The Academy consider highlighting technology in an annual awareness campaign.
5. The Academy’s Second Century Team review the input from the House of Delegates 2016 dialogue and support incorporation of technological advancements into the opportunity areas for the September 2016 Summit and forthcoming innovations projects.

“Technological Innovations” Action Plan Preparation: HOD Communications referencing this Action Plan were discussed in both NIC and ISC Monthly calls. This represents a condensed version of the document submitted for HOD Fall 2016. Attendees present on the Work Group calls included: Margaret Dittloff, Sue Kent, Steve Molinar, Donna Quirk, Sarah Rusnak, and Sharon Solomon. Staff Partner: Lindsey Hoggle

The essence of informatics is to use available information in combination with standards, processes, and technology to improve knowledge. RDNs and NDTRs are already expert in using the evidence base to practice in all areas of nutrition and dietetics. To remain at the forefront of technological innovation, the profession must actively participate in the development of health IT standards, processes, and technology.

The HOD members made many excellent recommendations in their comments and final motion. All members of the workforce that compiled this response agree that the Academy is integral to promotion of best practices in nutrition related to technology. The NIC and ISC jointly formed a Communications Team, which has already put together a plan of action for communicating key messages to members. This team is eager to partner with marketing and communications experts at the Academy to put these action items into motion.

Another recommendation of the HOD is that the Academy create a website where technology resources related to food and nutrition be shared. Members of both the NIC and ISC have written content which can be added to the existing content on EatrightPRO.org. The NIC Consumer Health Informatics (CHI) workgroup also recently published in the Journal of the Academy on the existence of a nutrition informatics knowledge gap, and detailed how the NIC and CHI are working to reduce it.

In order to continue this progress as we enter The Academy’s Second Century, past and present members of the NIC, ISC, and CHI recommend the incorporation of technological advancements into nutrition and dietetic practice through the following:

- Communicate to members the opportunities and resources currently provided, as well as the work that has been done by the Academy, NIC, ISC, and CHI to advance technological innovation.
- Continue education initiatives to assist members at all levels and in all areas of practice.
- Understand the importance of Health Information Technology (IT) standards and advocate for inclusion of nutrition in Health IT standards. Standards drive technological innovation, are constantly evolving, and are necessary for nutrition practice in a digital world.
workgroup also recently published in the *Journal of the Academy* on the existence of a nutrition informatics knowledge gap, and detailed how the NIC and CHI are working to reduce it.

*What can everyone associated with the Academy do to promote high skills and services that cannot be automated or programmed into technological systems? (#3 of HOD motions)*

- Understand and communicate that even the best technology, used in optimal ways – cannot replace the knowledge, skills, and potential impact of nutrition and dietetics practitioners.
- Complete the online Nutrition Informatics Certificate ([http://www.eatrightstore.org/product/5D6190F5-C627-42C5-A383-3199A92B05AD](http://www.eatrightstore.org/product/5D6190F5-C627-42C5-A383-3199A92B05AD)), with five modules:
  1. Overview of Informatics at the Academy: Academy Resources and Tools
  2. Data follows the Patient: Interoperability, Patient Generated Data, Protected Health Information, Security and Ethics
  3. Communications: Current Capabilities and Future Endeavors, Social Media, Telehealth, the Direct Project, and Blue Button
  4. Nutrition in Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Health Information Technology
  5. Analytical Skills Big and Small
- Appreciate that the U.S. has experienced unprecedented adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) and health IT and there is an infrastructure of health IT standards and guidance available to position nutrition care within health Information systems.
- Consider using information technology to use data to solve nutrition “problems” at your work settings.
- Read the Delphi Study and analyze identified individual informatics knowledge and skills according to practice level: (Ayres EJ, Greer-Carney JL, Fatzinger McShane PE, Miller A, Turner P. *Nutrition informatics competencies across all levels of practice: a national Delphi study*. J Acad Nutr Diet. 2012;112(12):2042-2053. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2012.09.025). In the final analysis of informatics knowledge and skills, 216 competencies were identified at varying levels, from novice to informatics expert. Importantly, one or more competencies applied to every area of dietetics practice. Importantly, it was also found that educators need tools to keep up on the changing landscape of the health care technologies so that they are fully equipped to prepare the next generation of professionals.
• Consider enrolling in the Academy/AMIA 10x10 Informatics Education Program (a 24 week online nutrition informatics specific course). The 2017 offering begins on April 26, 2017. [http://www.eatrightpro.org/resource/advocacy/quality-health-care/hitech-act/academyamia-10x10-informatics-education-program]

What can practitioners across areas of practice do to generate technological innovations that RDNs and NDTRs can spearhead? (#4 of HOD motions)

• Develop eLearning programs (webinars, online courses, Youtube videos) for the public and other health professionals.
• Use evidence based practice and quality monitoring to develop nutrition related Clinical Decision Support content for EHR’s.
• Integrate nutrition resources with patient health records and patient online portals.
• Promote responsible social networking integration between patient/clients and providers.
• Participate in research, including epigenetics research.
• Use telehealth to improve the public’s access to Registered Dietitian/Nutritionists.
• Take every opportunity to contribute quality data for electronic Clinical Quality Measures and Outcomes research/registries.
• Use mobile devices for monitoring/case management.
• Analyze “big data” to promote public health.

What can Academy groups do to empower members to transform practice through technology? (#5 of HOD motions)

• Visit the “Genius Zone” Booth at FNCE™. Since 2013, NIC and ISC members have been present to answer questions, direct attendees to technology presentations, and solicit feedback from members concerning technology use in practice.
• Academy groups can spotlight technology topics in practice at meetings and in newsletters.
• Academy groups can add a technology/informatics position to committees and other groups. DPG’s)
• Collaborate with the Interoperability and Standards Committee to consult and develop Health IT standards related to the group’s area of practice.
• Advocate for the use of health IT standards at the facility where you work. These standards support the use of the Nutrition Care Process (NCP).
• Continue to promote the adoption and use of NCP, eNCPT and the mapping spreadsheet which maps eNCPT to mandated clinical terminologies.

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