Electronic nursing care plan to improve continuity of patient care and enhance team communication

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Introduction
Electronic nursing care plan is to improve continuity of patient care and safety in current clinical practice. It can provide structured and standardized patient care information in clinical handover, and enhance effective team communication.

Objectives
To develop electronic nursing care plan, it is aimed at enhance effective sharing patient information among healthcare team, with improved continuity of patient care and safety.

Methodology
Electronic nursing care plan has been developed to all patients in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) by Computerized Information System (CIS) nursing team since November 2013. The development of it is focused on physical care, development care, family care, and discharge care for preterm, term and hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy (HIE) patients. The specific nursing care has been planned in electronic records after patient admission. The care plan for each patient has been updated and reviewed during hospitalization. Nurses have engaged to develop care plan for each patient in NICU after they have attended related training and practice. In order to facilitate the implementation of electronic care plan, an electronic user manual of “Care Plan User Guide for Nurses” has been developed and stored in each workstation for nurse reference.

Result
Electronic care plan for all patients have been performed easily and effectively at any workstation in NICU. The neonatal team has given support to all ongoing review on the work of care plan development, and staff training. Team approach is successful as nurses are actively engaged, and they have appreciated the workflow improvement and easy information sharing on cases handover and improved decision making among the team.