

Series Preface

This series is directed to healthcare professionals leading the transformation of healthcare by using information and knowledge. For over 20 years, Health Informatics has offered a broad range of titles: some address specific professions such as nursing, medicine, and health administration; others cover special areas of practice such as trauma and radiology; still other books in the series focus on interdisciplinary issues, such as the computer based patient record, electronic health records, and networked healthcare systems. Editors and authors, eminent experts in their fields, offer their accounts of innovations in health informatics. Increasingly, these accounts go beyond hardware and software to address the role of information in influencing the transformation of healthcare delivery systems around the world. The series also increasingly focuses on the users of the information and systems: the organizational, behavioral, and societal changes that accompany the diffusion of information technology in health services environments.

Developments in healthcare delivery are constant; in recent years, bioinformatics has emerged as a new field in health informatics to support emerging and ongoing developments in molecular biology. At the same time, further evolution of the field of health informatics is reflected in the introduction of concepts at the macro or health systems delivery level with major national initiatives related to electronic health records (EHR), data standards, and public health informatics.

These changes will continue to shape health services in the twenty-first century. By making full and creative use of the technology to tame data and to transform information, Health Informatics will foster the development and use of new knowledge in healthcare.

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Preface

Developments in telenursing are progressing at a great speed. As a consequence, there is a need for a broad overview of the field. This first ever book on telenursing is presented in such a way that it should make it accessible to anyone, independent of their knowledge of technology. The text is designed to be used by *all* professionals, including nurses, physicians, all allied health professionals and computer scientists.

In a very short time, driven by technical developments, the field of telenursing has become too extensive to be covered by only a small number of experts. Therefore, this *Telenursing* book has been written with chapter contributions from a host of renowned international authorities in telenursing (see the Table of Contents and the List of Contributors). This ensures that the subject matter focusing on recent advances in telenursing is truly up to date. Our guiding hope during this task was that as editors of multiple chapters we could still write with a single voice and keep the content coherent and simple. We hope that the clarity of this book makes up for any limitations in its comprehensiveness.

The editors took much care that this *Telenursing* book would not become merely a collection of separate chapters but, rather, would offer a consistent and structured overview of the field. We are aware that there is still considerable room for improvement and that certain elements of telenursing are not fully covered, such as legal and reimbursement policies. The editors invite readers to forward their valuable comments and feedback to further improve and expand future editions of this *Telenursing* book.

Books on theoretical and technical aspects inevitably use technical jargon, and this book is no exception. Although jargon is minimised, it cannot be eliminated without retreating to a more superficial level of coverage. The reader's understanding of the jargon will vary based on their backgrounds, but anyone with some background in computers, nursing and/or health would be able to understand most of the terms used. In any case, an attempt has been made to define all jargon terms in the Glossary.

This *Telenursing* book has been organised systematically. The format and length of each chapter are standardised, thus ensuring that the content is concise and easy to read. Every chapter provides a comprehensive list of citations and references for further reading. Figure drawings and clinical photographs throughout the book illustrate and illuminate the text well, providing its readers with high-quality visual reference material. Particularly useful features of this text are that each chapter has a summary of salient points for the reader.

The book consists of 17 chapters and begins with a brief introductory chapter explaining the basic concepts that are mainstay to telenursing, and subsequent chapters are built upon those foundations, through the experiences from various nations. Within each chapter, the goal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the topic. The final chapter covers future directions of telenursing.

This book would not have been possible without the contribution from various people. We acknowledge and appreciate the assistance of all reviewers and Ms. Latika Hans, editorial assistant from Bangalore, India. We would like to thank all authors for making this book possible through their contributions and constant support.

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Telenursing

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