



Health

| NURSING EDUCATION

Integrating Evidence-Based Nursing Resources

A Step-by-Step Journey
with UofL Health



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Nursing practice is evolving to meet increased quality, safety, and efficiency demands. Evidence-based practice (EBP) is essential for reducing errors, improving patient outcomes, and boosting job satisfaction among nurses. However, many hospitals face challenges implementing standardized, evidence-based resources at the point of care.

This ebook reveals how the University of Louisville (UofL) Health successfully integrated Elsevier's evidence-based resources to address critical challenges and achieve goals across their nursing organization.



About UofL Health

UofL Health is a fully integrated academic health system serving the Greater Kentucky region. Based in Louisville, near the borders of Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois, UofL Health operates as a tertiary referral center. The system includes nine hospitals, around 14,000 team members, and 1,200 providers.

As an academic health system, UofL Health is committed to providing the community with high-quality patient care through its nursing staff and specialized practice. UofL Health is home to a Level 1 Trauma Center, a comprehensive stroke program, oncology services with a freestanding Cancer Center, a transplant center, a cardiac center known as the Heart Hospital, and a freestanding rehabilitation center.



The Challenges of Standardization in a Growing Health System

UofL Health's rapid expansion from a single hospital to a network of nine facilities in 2019 presented the challenge of standardizing practices for thousands of new nurses across the system.

Mandi Walker, DNP, RN, NPDA-BC, CCRN, NEA-BC, Executive Director of Professional Practice, explains that their aim was to unify nursing practices and provide evidence-based resources that nurses could access anytime—especially in situations where experienced support might not be readily available.

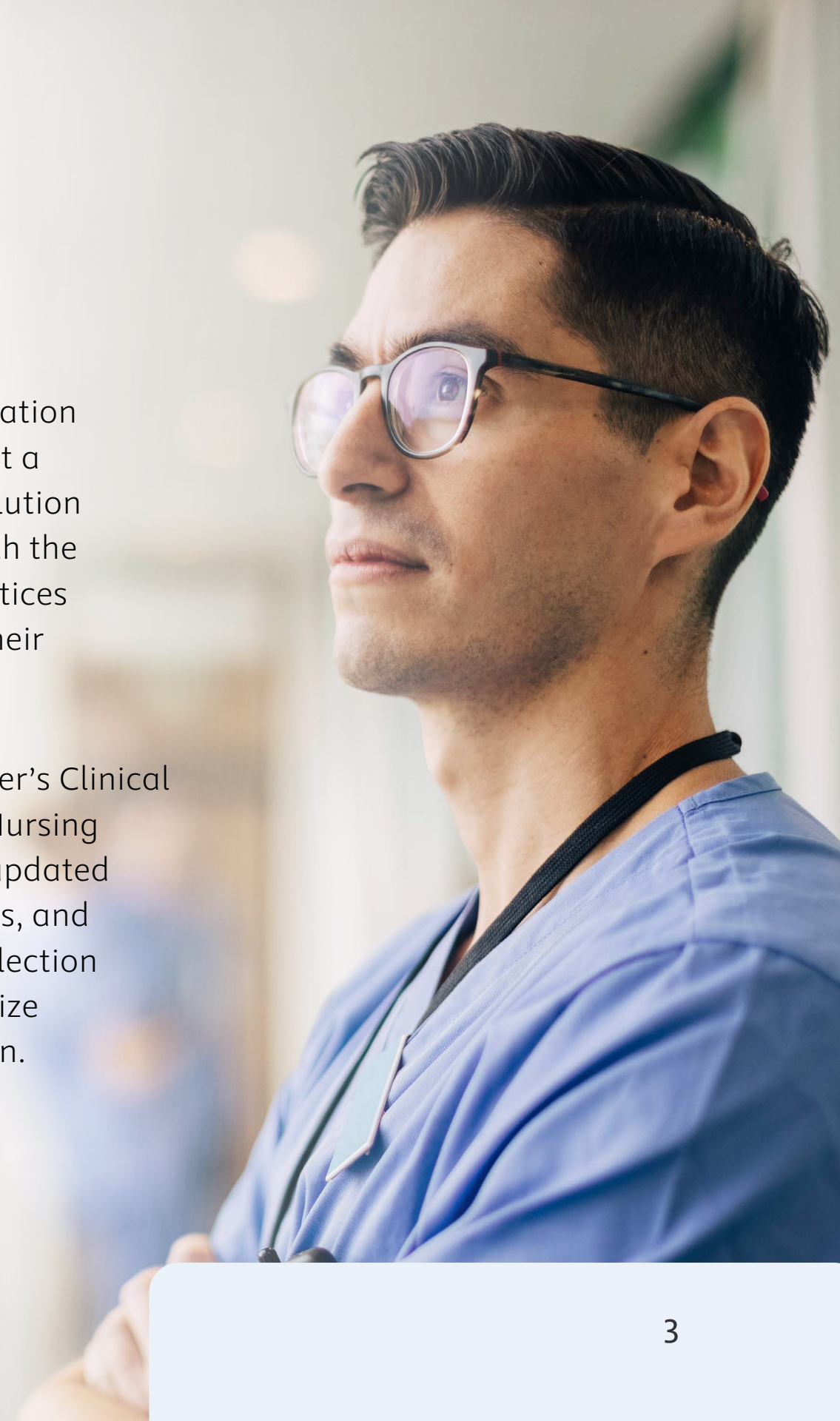
This need became even more urgent with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought an influx of new nurses to UofL Health, many with limited experience. Standardization became essential to meet rising patient needs and to support nurses dealing with life or death situations.

Selecting the Right Partners and Tools

In choosing a nursing education partner, UofL Health sought a comprehensive, reliable solution that would stay current with the latest evidence-based practices and fit seamlessly within their existing workflows.

UofL Health selected Elsevier's Clinical Skills and ClinicalKey® for Nursing because of their regularly updated content, integration options, and specialty resources. This selection helped UofL Health centralize evidence-based information.

- Clinical Skills
- ClinicalKey® for Nursing



Evidence-Based Practice as the Cornerstone of Quality Care

Evidence-based practice reduces medical errors and complications, enhances clinical skills, improves patient safety, and controls costs. For example, a study found that using EBP strategies reduced patient mortality rates from 7.75% to 6.27% and decreased hospital stays from 8.5 days to 6 days.¹ It empowers clinicians by providing them with the latest research and best practices, which enhances their clinical skills and decision-making. This approach has been linked to improved patient outcomes and higher levels of job satisfaction among healthcare providers.²

1. Melnyk, B. M., Fineout-Overholt, E., Gallagher-Ford, L., & Kaplan, L. (2012). The state of evidence-based practice in US nurses: Critical implications for nurse leaders and educators. *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 42(9), 410-417. doi:10.1097/NNA.0b013e3182664e0a.
2. Newhouse, R. P., Dearholt, S. L., Poe, S. S., Pugh, L. C., & White, K. M. (2007). Evidence-based practice: A practical approach to implementation. *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 37(12), 552-557. doi:10.1097/01.NNA.0000302384.91366.3f.



EBP strategies reduced patient mortality rates from **7.75% to 6.27%** and decreased hospital stays from **8.5 days to 6 days**¹

EBP also has educational benefits, as it helps nurses develop necessary competencies, particularly new nurses who may lack direct experience with specific procedures. UofL Health's nurse leaders prioritize placing reliable resources at nurses' fingertips so that they feel empowered to provide safe, effective care.

Walker recalls instances where nurses, lacking readily accessible information, turned to unverified online sources for guidance. This lack of trustworthy resources at critical moments introduces risk and emphasizes the need for an integrated, evidence-based solution easily accessible at the point of care.

By providing up-to-date, evidence-based resources, UofL Health supports their nurses in making informed decisions to improve patient outcomes.

Implementing Evidence-Based Solutions: A Step-by-Step Guide

1. Set Goals

Define your organization's goals for integrating skills support content such as Elsevier's Clinical Skills into your workflows. Collaborate with stakeholders to align these goals with broader organizational priorities, ensuring the integration delivers maximum value to your team and patients.

2. Roll Out Initial Plan

Establish your plan for integrating skills support content within existing workflows. This initial rollout should streamline access and ensure that clinicians can easily utilize the resources provided.

3. EHR Integration

Integrate Clinical Skills for support at the point of care and ClinicalKey for Nursing for deeper clinical knowledge in the EHR to enable nurses to look up guidance in real time. This seamless integration will minimize workflow disruption.

4. LMS adoption for Competency Management

Incorporate Clinical Skills with the LMS to allow for competency tracking and targeted training assignments. By adding ClinicalKey for Nursing, ensure nurses can look for more detailed answers as time permits, enhancing their ability to provide informed care.

5. Support Self-Enrollment and Track Competencies

Facilitate professional development by enabling self-enrollment in Clinical Skills courses eligible for Nursing Continuing Professional Development (NCPD) credits. Highlight the importance of this capability in motivating nurses to engage in ongoing learning and maintain their professional credentials.

6. Use Targeted Training Sessions

Use targeted training sessions and specialty-specific meetings to increase engagement and ensure that nurses in all areas benefit from the tools available. This will support a comprehensive approach to professional development and help hospitals integrate evidence-based resources effectively.

7. Integrate Internal Policies

Integrate your hospital's specific policies into Elsevier's Clinical Skills to align the platform with your organization's standards. Utilize customization tools to upload and embed key internal policies, ensuring they are easily accessible through prompts or notes within workflows. Collaborate with clinical educators to review and validate the accuracy of the integrated content.

8. Embed in Learning Culture

Systematically incorporate Elsevier's tools into various stages of nurse development, such as orientation, residency, and preceptor programs, to reinforce the value of evidence-based practice (EBP). Embed these tools into the daily routines and workflows of nurses to promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

9. Drive Continuous Engagement

Conduct regular "re-launches" and reminders to keep nurses engaged with the available resources and ensure that the resources remain top of mind and highly utilized.

"Clinical Skills is at the point of care when clinicians need it, but also available anytime they want to learn about something or need continuing education credit, all of those things that are specific to the work they do."

– Mandi Walker, DNP, RN,
NPDA-BC, CCRN, NEA-BC,
UofL Health

Real-World Application:

How Evidence-Based Resources Support Nurses in Practice

At the Point of Care

Walker shares examples where Clinical Skills provided critical guidance during complex care scenarios. With easy access to Elsevier's resources, nurses could quickly reference step-by-step instructions to ensure accurate, safe procedures.

“If a physician indicates the need for a chest tube insertion and it is the first time the assistant is involved in such a procedure, they can quickly access the relevant information through the EHR. By searching for ‘chest tube insertion,’ they can review a concise, 2-5 minute guide on the procedure. This includes details on necessary products, medications to anticipate, and other critical information, enabling them to assist efficiently at the bedside.”

– Mandi Walker, DNP, RN, NPDA-BC, CCRN, NEA-BC, UofL Health

Educational and Preceptorship Support

UofL Health's residency and preceptor programs leverage Elsevier's comprehensive resources to train new staff members effectively. These programs ensure that new nurses receive the guidance and education they need to excel in their roles.

Preceptors can assign specific learning modules tailored to address the individual needs of new nurses, focusing on areas where improvement is required. This targeted approach helps new nurses build their skills and knowledge and fosters a supportive and collaborative environment.

In this setting, new and experienced nurses can continuously grow in confidence and competence, enhancing the overall quality of patient care. By utilizing these resources, UofL Health ensures that its nursing staff is well-prepared to meet the demands of their profession and provide exceptional patient care.



Key Takeaways

By integrating Elsevier's Clinical Skills and ClinicalKey for Nursing, UofL Health has created a supportive environment with streamlined access to evidence-based content that empowers nurses at every level.

Since implementation, they have seen **improved nurse confidence, enhanced patient outcomes, and reduced administrative burdens.**

UofL Health empowers its nurses to make informed decisions directly at the bedside, fostering a culture of autonomy where they feel confident and capable of delivering care independently. Walker describes this approach as essential for enabling nurses to provide high-quality care while supporting the professional growth and development of their nursing staff.

"I am passionate about and advocate for nursing autonomy and the ability for nurses at the point of care to have the resources they need to make a decision and act...I want them going to Elsevier for the solutions in a nursing platform with answers and content geared towards nurses."

– Mandi Walker, DNP, RN, NPDA-BC, CCRN, NEA-BC, UofL Health

About the Solutions

Clinical Skills

Elsevier's Clinical Skills supports care consistency by offering standardized, evidence-based education and the ability to track, measure and remediate performance. By combining over 2,100 skills and procedures with competency management and continuing professional development, Clinical Skills helps ensure that knowledge and skills are current and reflect best practices. And with step-by-step guidance for skills and procedures available directly within the EHR workflow, clinicians can manage patient needs with confidence at the point of care.

ClinicalKey® for Nursing

ClinicalKey for Nursing allows clinicians to answer complex medical questions with quick and relevant answers based on the most current care standards. Content is continuously refreshed to incorporate new clinical evidence and cutting-edge research findings. By combining access to the latest evidence-based information across specialties in topical summaries, journals, books, videos and more, clinicians can trust that they're applying better treatment decisions and continually improving the quality of their clinical practice.

For more information, please visit
elsevier.com/health/nurse



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