

Experiences and reflections when incorporating the Nutrition Care Process and Terminology – (NCP/NCPT) into electronic health records

With healthcare increasingly embracing technological solutions (including electronic health records) a systematic approach is needed when documenting dietetic practice. Even before the planning of electronic systems, dietitians are encouraged to be active participants, collaborate with Information Technology professionals, and be aware of related considerations to ensure high quality nutrition care. The International Confederation of Dietetic Associations has supported the use of the Nutrition Care Process and Terminology since 2005. The Nutrition Care Process & Model (NCPM) provides terminology and structure to ensure a uniform language when documenting all steps of nutrition care.

Applying Nutrition Care Process Terminology (NCPT) in Electronic Health Records (EHRs) supports assurance of quality, and strengthens continuity in multi-, cross- and interdisciplinary collaboration. Electronic health record documentation is a part of routine practice for many Dietitians. However, there are a number of potential barriers, such as different electronic systems, IT readiness, time and resources, and planning and structure that may pose a challenge.

The NCPT provides the profession with a good structure for the evaluation of care, assessment of Quality Improvement, streamlining of services and potential for savings in time and resources due to increased efficiency. The experiences of countries from different continents will be presented to assist dietitians around the globe to be prepared to overcome potential barriers, and to consider how to make the technology work for them. Discover the standard terms recommended for use internationally to assess the progress and resolution of identified nutrition problems and learn about the systematic and structured approach the Nutrition Care Process presents. Make an assessment of where you or your organizations are on the journey towards the global adoption of NCPT and electronic health records as part of practice.

Decide on one action that you can take away to strengthen our profession