

## **The Patient Care Data Set**

The Patient Care Data Set (PCDS) was developed to address the need for a comprehensive terminology for the acute care setting. The PCDS was not developed as a classification system, but as a data dictionary of elements to be included in and abstracted from clinical information systems (Ozbolt, 1997). Earlier versions of the PCDS contained pre-coordinated phrases to describe clinical practice. Ozbolt's work has led to parsing the pre-coordinated terms into atomic elements that can be coded and combined to describe clinical activities. The PCDS may be described as multi-axial and combinatorial. Henry and Mead (1997) describe a combinatorial vocabulary as "one in which atomic terms may be combined to represent more complex concepts rather than a simple term-matching classification system" (p. 226).

## **History**

The Patient Care Data Set (PCDS) was developed by Dr. Judith Ozbolt, PhD, RN. Early development began in 1992 at the University of Virginia Medical Center. In 1993, the University Hospital Consortium joined the University of Virginia in collaboration on the project. The PCDS was compiled and tested for validity and reliability in 1994 and 1995 and was found to be valid and reliable in the acute care setting. Work on the PCDS is presently being conducted by Dr. Ozbolt at Vanderbilt University. The most recent information in the public domain regarding the PCDS was published in 1999 by Dr. Ozbolt. Information from this publication was used in compiling this document (Ozbolt, 1999).

## Structure

Organized into 22 **components**, modified from Saba's Home Health Care Classification:

- Activity
- Circulation
- Cognition
- Coping and Mental Health
- Fluids and Electrolytes
- Gastrointestinal Function
- Health Knowledge and Behaviors
- Immunology
- Medications and Blood Products
- Metabolism
- Nutrition
- Physical Regulation
- Pre-, Intra, and Post-Procedure
- Respiration
- Role Relationships
- Safety
- Self Care
- Self Concept
- Sensation, Pain, and Comfort
- Tissue Integrity
- Tissue Perfusion
- Urinary Elimination

Each component contains 3 **axes**:

- Problems
- Goals
- Orders

Each axis contains **atomic level elements**:

- Problems
  - Subject
  - Object
  - Likelihood
  - Status
  - Degree
  - Duration
  - Value
  - Frequency
  - Body site
  - Laterality
  - Goals

- Subject
- Object
- Performance
- Level of performance
- Equipment
- Manifestations
- Goal Evaluation Status

Orders

- Subject
- Object
- Action
- Indicators
- Method
- Risk Factors

PCDS version 4.0 (1998) contained 363 patient problems, 1357 patient care orders, and 311 patient care goals.

Dr. Ozbolt holds the copyright to versions 1 through 4; Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) will hold copyright to subsequent versions. Plans were being made to incorporate the PCDS into the Patient Care Information System at VUMC (Ozbolt, 1999).

## References

- Henry, S. B. & Mead, C. N. (1997). Nursing classification systems: Necessary but not sufficient for representing "what nurses do" for inclusion in computer-based patient record systems. *Journal of the American Informatics Association*, 4(3), 222-232.
- Ozbolt, J. G. (1997). Multiple attributes for patient care data: Toward a multiaxial, combinatorial vocabulary. Retrieved July 7, 2003, from <http://www.amia.org/pubs/symposia/D004400.pdf>
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