

## Community Based Information Technology

### OVERVIEW

Information Technology has great potential to make health information and communication available to members of our communities. We know that knowledgeable consumers of health care information have more control over their own health and health care.

People can also access or create a social support networks and find help to facilitate behavioral change. This week we will see how the Community Nurse can both facilitate the wise use of these technologies and participate in the production of technologies to enhance the capacities of their communities.



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Evaluate the quality of health information websites.
2. Identify ways to increase public access to health information and communication technologies.
3. Describe ways that CHNs can use technology to support community health.

### PREPARATION

1. **READ:** Chapter 15 in your Stamler text.
2. **EXPLORE:** Example of how information technology is saving lives – a Great international example  
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/expert-systems-fight-poverty/>
3. **VIEW VIDEO:** The future of health. <https://youtu.be/W0li-PI6yWo>
4. **VIEW VIDEO:** Community Health Centres: Healthy People, Healthy Communities  
<https://youtu.be/E133BjHJG9I>



## ACTIVITIES

### 1. Use of Information Technology ePoster and Forum

- a. Identify a program or activity from your practice experience that might be improved by the creative use of information technology. For example, you might decide that older adults in your community need more information about immunizations targeted specifically for the elderly or that a group of home bound palliative care patients need a website to share their experiences with each other.
- b. Decide the type of technology you will use and how.
- c. Create an e-poster to advertise the new technology site/activity that you would like to develop. Use a design app you know (that can be uploaded to Moodle and seen by the rest of the class).
- d. Post your e-poster to the Use of Tech Assignment Forum for this week.



## REFLECTION

Most community health nurses use electronic patient care records. How can we protect a client's right to confidentiality in a system that makes their records more readily available to many more people (such as IT techs, researchers, drug companies etc.)?

## REFERENCES

Stamler, L & Yiu, L. (2016). *Community Health Nursing: A Canadian Perspective*. Toronto: Pearson-Prentice Hall (4th edition).