

International Caring Comparative Database

The International Caring Comparative Database (ICCD) is a dynamic repository that began as a scholarly endeavor associated with the International Caritas Consortium. This group of health professionals is connected through the use of caring theory as a clinical-practice-research model. The ICCD is an open and flexible database managed by Dr. Joanne Duffy (Principal Investigator) of The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. The database collects and evaluates patients' perceptions of nurse caring behaviors from health care institutions throughout the world. Using the CAT-version IV (Duffy, Hoskins & Seifert, 2007) and some patient descriptors (e.g. age, gender, educational level), participating institutions receive unit-level comparative data reports to use for benchmarking, seeking out best practices, quality improvement, and research.

The ICCD stores the nursing-sensitive *process* indicator, nurse caring behaviors. Other *process* indicators, such as nurse manager caring behaviors and nurse educator caring behaviors may be added. These indicators of caring provide participating institutions with timely information about the processes of caring (from the patient, staff nurse, and student points of view). Regularly assessing caring processes allows clinicians, educators, and administrators to monitor improvements in nursing practice, to link caring processes with nursing-sensitive outcomes measures, to study ways that structural indicators such as staffing patterns or nurse credentials affect caring processes and to examine trends over time.

The ICCD is the only comparative database of caring behaviors performed by nurses. It has grown from an "idea" to a reality because health care institutions' that use caring professional practice models as a foundation for nursing practice are actively seeking ways to connect and improve their services.

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