## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Configuring a computer-based nursing process form to support nursing diagnosis in rural healthcare clinics in Nigeria

CHINEMEREM ELEKE<sup>1,2</sup>, ADA C. NWANERI<sup>3</sup>, JOY C. SAMUEL<sup>1</sup>, SABINAH NGBALA-OKPABI<sup>1,2</sup>, IFEYINWA S. AGU<sup>4</sup>, DAMIETE M. AMACHREE<sup>5</sup> and TEX-JACK DOKUBA<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Nursing Science, University of Port Harcourt; <sup>2</sup>Africa Center for Excellence in Public Health & Toxicological Research, University of Port Harcourt; <sup>3</sup>Department of Nursing Sciences, University of Nigeria Enugu Campus; <sup>4</sup>Department of Nursing Science, Abia State University Uturu; <sup>5</sup>Department of Nursing Sciences, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt; <sup>6</sup>Rivers State School of Midwifery, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

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1 Abstract. Poor internet infrastructure limits the use of computer-based nursing process forms in rural areas. This 2 3 study aimed to configure a computer-based nursing process 4 form to support nursing diagnosis and care evaluation in rural healthcare clinics in Africa. This study utilized a meth-5 odological design. The design process utilized a three-stage 6 7 procedure involving planning, configuration, and testing. Seven 8 faculty members volunteered to participate in the laboratory 9 verification process. Each simulation session lasted 45 min and span from patient admission to exit. The experts indepen-10 11 dently scored the software functionality dichotomously as Not 12 Suitable (score 0) and Suitable (score 1) for nursing practice. The agreement between the faculty volunteers was 0.857. The 13 14 configuration of a readily available Microsoft Access computer 15 application to support nursing diagnosis without internet 16 service is possible. Health facilities in rural areas without 17 internet connectivity should resort to such local configurations to maximize the benefits of electronic-based documentation. 18 19

### 20 Introduction

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Designing mobile technologies requires the amalgamation of scientific knowledge, technical design, and practical ideas towards tool development. The use of mobile technologies in the biomedical field has risen dramatically in the developed world. Nurses use mobile technologies for several activities such as patient assessment, diagnosis, care documentation,

treatment evaluation, and data sharing (1). They often use it in

Key words: computer, diagnosis, internet, nursing, rural

hospitals and hospices in technologically advanced countries.29Mobile technology utilization in rural Africa is very low due30to a lack of reliable internet broadband connectivity (2). Given31that nurses deal with enormous daily patient care data, it has32become imperative to reshape the nursing work process for33effectiveness and efficiency in the rural areas of Africa.34

Nurses are supposed to document all planned and 35 completed nursing activities (3). Nursing documentation 36 involves records of planned care delivered to patients and 37 families by qualified professional nurses. In modern times, 38 nurse professionals acknowledge high-quality nursing docu-39 mentation as essential in professional nursing practice (4). It 40 provides details of patients' progress throughout hospitaliza-41 tion. Technically, documented nursing activities serve as one 42 of the accepted indicators of quality nursing services within 43 a hospital (5). It further supports effective communication of 44 care delivery between health facilities at primary, secondary, 45 and tertiary levels of care (6). On the other hand, inaccurate 46 nursing documentation can result in faulty data analysis, 47 inappropriate nursing care plans, and ineffective patient care 48 interventions (7). As a panacea, nurses apply the nursing 49 process. 50

The Nursing Process is considered a highly significant 51 practical standard for patient-specific nursing care (8). The 52 idea of the nursing process has been accepted globally by 53 nurses since its proposal by Lydia Hall in 1955 (9). It is central 54 to all nursing actions in any nursing frame of reference (10). It 55 involves accurate assessment, planning of care, intervention, 56 and evaluation of individualized care. It constitutes the foun-57 dation for quality scientific nursing practice (11). Nurses use 58 Gordon's Functional Health Patterns in the assessment phase, 59 NANDA-International (NANDA-I) in diagnosis and planning, 60 Nursing Interventions Classification (NIC) in the intervention, 61 and Nursing Outcomes Classification (NOC) in the evaluation. 62 The NANDA-I, NIC, and NOC add up to form a nursing care 63 64 plan.

The Functional Health pattern is a comprehensive model 65 that provides a holistic format for assessing patients using 66 eleven health patterns. These are questions that reflect the 67

*Correspondence to:* Chinemerem Eleke, Maternal & Child Health Informatics and Research Unit, Department of Nursing Science, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria E-mail: chinemerem.eleke@uniport.edu.ng

strengths and limitations of a unique individual patient. Each 1 weakness links to available NANDA-I diagnosis. It then 2 informs the NIC (intervention) and NOC (outcome) catego-3 4 ries (12). The NANDA-I, NIC, and NOC are standardized 5 nursing taxonomy or classification systems developed for the 6 International Classification of Nursing Practice (13). These 7 standard nursing languages provide common definitions of 8 nursing concepts and allow for theory-based, comparable, and 9 researchable nursing data to emerge (14). In an attempt to inte-10 grate the classification systems, an alliance between NANDA-I and the Centre for Classification and Nursing Effectiveness 11 proposed the NNN (NANDA, NIC, and NOC) structure and 12 13 linkages. The Nursing process Care Plan is one of the tools 14 utilized during the documentation of the nursing process. It 15 shows what happens in the nursing decision-making process anchored on the patient's presenting information. It stands out 16 17 as a care tool that guides the sequence of logical reasoning 18 and enables the nursing staff to evaluate their effectiveness 19 and modify their intervention (13). It provides information 20 on admission, diagnosis, plan, interventions, and evaluation 21 (ADPIE) of care. The two accepted forms for holding nursing 22 care plan data are paper-based and electronic-based.

23 Paper-based nursing process documentation is the 24 most commonly used system in rural Africa. The nurse 25 writes down relevant details of care on paper. As the nurse 26 progresses through the ADPIE steps, he/she refers to voluminous NANDA-I, NIC, NOC taxonomy textbooks to retrieve 27 28 relevant information to facilitate proper documentation. It 29 can be time-consuming, especially in settings with a high 30 patient-to-nurse ratio (1). In recent times, as nursing has 31 become more complex and the amount of documentation 32 has increased immensely, paper-based hospital documents require more storage space, making it very labor-intensive to 33 34 assemble and retrieve relevant information (15). In addition, 35 handwriting legibility differences between nurses worsen the risk of misinterpretation of paper documented information 36 37 during fast-paced nursing emergencies (16). These limitations 38 of paper-based nursing process documentation have stimu-39 lated several authors to argue that the use of computerized 40 nursing documentation forms with links to nursing diagnosis 41 will facilitate diagnostic reasoning and reduce time spent on data retrieval. 42

43 Electronic-based nursing process documentation is gaining 44 acceptance among nurses (5). It requires an electronic device 45 such as a computer and few digital accessories. It may need a small amount of electricity to operate, a problem increas-46 47 ingly solved by growing rural solar electrification projects. 48 Its documents occupy small storage spaces (18). Depending 49 on the design, it can suggest NANDA-I diagnosis without the 50 nurse referring to voluminous nursing taxonomy textbooks. In 51 theory, this would reduce the time spent on documentation. It 52 could share documents quickly among authorized nursing care 53 providers when connected to an Ethernet (19). In addition, it 54 can search for and retrieve specific relevant data for immediate 55 use and improve the legibility concern.

Enhancing the quality of nursing process documentation
is a global challenge. The limitations of paper-based nursing
process documentation have led nurse-researchers and software developers into designing nursing process tools. The
previous computerized nursing assessment forms in existence

are the Nursing Process Electronic Documentation System 61 of the University of Sao Paulo (USP-PROCEnf), Electronic 62 Nursing Process Data Model [ENPDM], Nursing Process 63 Support System in Chinese (NPSSC), and Computer-Aided 64 Nursing (CAN) diagnosis system (20-23). However, the 65 mentioned nursing process software tools have some strengths 66 67 and weaknesses that limit their fit for purpose in rural African settings. They can suggest nursing diagnoses that the nurse 68 must confirm. However, all the mentioned electronic systems 69 offer a limited list of NANDA-I nursing diagnoses. Gordon's 70 Functional Health Pattern assessment is also not integrated 71 into the forms. They always require the internet to operate, 72 73 hence not fit for purpose in rural Africa.

In Nigeria, electronic-based nursing documentation is not 74 widespread in rural and semi-rural public healthcare facilities. 75 In disappointment, two of the frequently cited hindrances to 76 implementation include the high cost of purchasing existing 77 78 nursing process software, lack of internet access, the high price 79 of internet access, and incompatibility with basic computer requirements (24). The set premise highlights the need for 80 a study geared at designing a low-cost and highly compat-81 ible computerized nursing process form that can function 82 independently of the internet. This study aimed to configure 83 a computer-based nursing process form to support nursing 84 diagnosis in rural healthcare clinics in Africa. 85

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### Materials and methods

Ethical considerations. This study adhered strictly to the 89 provisions of the Helsinki Declaration as revised in 2013. 90 91 The protocol of this study was independently reviewed and approved by two Health Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) 92 namely: the HREC of Federal Medical Centre Umuahia 93 (FMC/QEH/G.596/Vol. 10/562) and the HREC of Federal 94 Medical Centre Owerri (FMC/OW/HREC/Vol. II/66). All 95 volunteer participants in this study provided signed consent 96 before participation commenced. This research report refer-97 enced the NANDA-I taxonomy textbook used in this study and 98 99 cited the authors Herdman and Kamitsuru (25).

*Study design*. A methodological design was utilized in this 101 study. This design focuses on the development of tools via 102 sophisticated technical methods. It is appropriate for scientific 103 disciplines studying complex phenomena like health and 104 behaviour as seen in nursing (26). 105

*Procedure*. The research team designed this supposedly 107 low-cost software for rural healthcare settings experiencing 108 unreliable internet services. A three-stage system development 109 life cycle process comprising planning, configuration, and 110 testing as advocated by Peres and colleagues was applied (20). 111 All identified anomalies in the testing stage stimulated 112 restarting the cycle (review). 113

*Stage 1: planning.* The team designed a flow chart to illustrate 115 the sequence of activities and flow of information (Fig. 1). The 116 flow chart was intended to guide the algorithm development 117 that will link real-world experience to computational logic. 118 Due to limited available engineering software resources, the 119 researcher used Microsoft Word 2007 (Microsoft Corporation, 120



Redmond, USA) by convenience for designing the flow chart.
The planning stage took place in April 2022. The planning
was based on results of qualitative communication between
the researcher and clinical nurses on required features of an
ideal electronic nursing process form.

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52 Stage 2: configuration. The team converted ideas in the flow 53 chart to screen images. The screen interface and layout was 54 designed with Microsoft Access 2007 (Microsoft Corporation, 55 Redmond, USA) by convenience. Firstly, we created database tables. A nursing diagnosis table was designed and populated 56 using the NANDA-I 2015-2017 edition (25). The table was 57 58 cross-checked four times to ensure the identification and 59 correction of all textual mistakes. The functional patterns 60 table was created to show fields for data entry on Gordon's eleven patterns (26). The additional tables created include 106 those on patient registration profile, nursing entry survey, 107 nursing exit survey, vital signs, intake, output, nursing care 108 plan, and medication. Then a password table was made. 109 Secondly, the tables were converted into forms to include 110 admission, nursing entry-exit survey, nursing assessment, vital 111 signs-intake-output, nursing care plan, and medication forms 112 (Figs. 2-7). A password entry form was also made. Thirdly, 113 modelling of the software was done via programming func-114 tions. The tables were linked using the table relationship 115 function. The fields were linked using the query function. 116 For the nursing diagnosis prediction in the nursing care plan 117 form, clicking to select an item from a drop-down menu on the 118 problem domain informs the computer to query and suggest a 119 menu of items in the problem class. A click to select an item 120 8

in the problem class will tell the system to query and present
a list of problem items. The suggestions are automatic and
need the nurse to confirm a selection to trigger each next step.
Finally, the password entry field was programmed to match
any typed-in digits with preregistered passwords in the password table before granting access. The configuration was done
between May and July 2022.

9 Step 3: testing. The software was installed on a laptop with 10 the following features: Intel Pentium HP 250 G2, 1600MHz DDR31 SDRAM 4GB memory. Engineering verification was 11 done by the research team. The smooth flow of navigation links 12 13 through the separate forms that comprise the computer-based 14 nursing process form was verified as satisfactory. Laboratory 15 testing was done with the help of seven faculty members. It was done in a simulation setting inside the University of 16 17 Port Harcourt Department of Nursing Demonstration and 18 Simulation Laboratory. The seven faculty members took turns on the computer to verbally assess a volunteer and docu-19 20 ment data on the software. Each simulation session lasted 21 45 min and span from patient admission to exit. At the end 22 of each session, the software operator (volunteer faculty) was 23 requested to dichotomously write Not Suitable (score 0) and 24 Suitable (score 1) for Nursing practice in line with their feeling 25 about the functionality of the software. The feedback was 26 anonymously returned to the team in a mail box. No clinical validation was done. However, after relevant approvals are 27 received from authorities, the research team will progress to 28 29 clinical testing in the real world.

31 Data analysis. To determine the agreement between the 32 participating faculty regarding the software, all responses (Not 33 Suitable=0 and Suitable=1) were summed and divided by the 44 total number of faculty participants. The Statistical Products 35 and Service Solution version 21 was used for the statistical 36 calculation (SPSS 21, IBM Corp., Armonk, USA).

### 38 Results

Six of the seven faculty members responded with a score
of 1. The agreement between the faculties was computed to
be 0.857, so the software was considered useful for nursing
practice (27).

### 45 Discussion

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47 The configuration of readily available computer applications to support nursing diagnosis and the nursing process can be 48 49 a viable solution for nursing practice in rural communities. 50 Considering how voluminous the nursing taxonomy textbooks 51 are, a lack of familiarity with its content can lead to delay 52 and error in care (28). This software functions well without 53 internet connectivity. It is also compatible with basic computer 54 and mobile electronic devices. The research team named 55 the computerized-form ENPDF (an acronym for Electronic Nursing Process and Documentation Form). It was designed 56 57 to function in line with a flow chart constructed for this study. 58 In the flow chart, the research team utilized a simple visual 59 representation of the information flow. This was done to 60 ensure easy understanding of the information flow at a glance. Given the premise that the adoption of new technology is not61very straightforward, a flow chart could serve as an orientation62tool for new users.63

The ENPDF was composed of the following sub-forms 64 namely Admission form, Nursing Entry and Exit survey 65 form, Nursing Assessment form (based on Gordon's 66 Functional Health Pattern), Vital Signs-Intake-Output Form, 67 Nursing Care Plan and Treatment form (linked electroni-68 cally to NANDA-I Diagnosis Domains 2015-2017 edition), 69 and Medication form. The admission form comprised four-70 71 teen data fields and eight function tabs. The fourteen data fields were designed to hold information such as a unique 72 folder number, date of admission, first name, middle name, 73 surname, gender, age, phone number, residence, email, work 74 address, next of kin's full name, phone number, and address. 75 The eight function tabs were designed to search for a patient's 76 record, print form, submit/save patient's information, find the 77 first record, previous record, next record, last record, and 78 open entry and exit survey form (Fig. 2). The end-user forms 79 were designed to have very bold form titles. This was done 80 81 to familiarize the end user of what position in the flow chart he/she is at a specific time. 82

83 The nursing entry and exit survey forms were composed of two sections put side by side for easy visualization and 84 analysis. The two sections are the nursing entry survey 85 form (on the left) and the nursing exit survey form (on the 86 right). The nursing entry survey form was designed to be 87 filled on assessment of an admitted patient, whereas the 88 nursing exit survey form was designed to be filled during 89 summative discharge evaluation. The nursing entry survey 90 91 form comprised ten data fields and nine function tabs. The eleven fields were designed to hold information such as folder 92 93 number, unique entry survey identification string, admission 94 date, entry nutrition status, entry elimination status, entry mobility status, entry sleep status, entry sexuality status, and 95 entry general health status. The entry status fields were graded 96 using a drop-down NOC (Nursing Outcomes Classification) 97 evaluation scale such that very good=1/5, good=2/5, fair=3/5, 98 bad=4/5, and very bad=5/5. The nine function tabs were 99 designed to perform functions such as searching nursing 100 entry and exit survey form, find the next record, print the 101 nursing entry and exit survey form, find the first record, find 102 the previous record, find the next record, find the last record, 103 submit/save entry survey, and open nursing assessment form. 104 Furthermore, the nursing exit survey form comprised eight 105 data fields and one function tab. The eight data fields were 106 designed to hold data on date of discharge, exit nutrition status, 107 exit elimination status, exit mobility status, exit sleep status, 108 exit memory status, exit sexuality status, and exit general 109 health status. Additionally, the function tab was designed 110 to submit/save exit survey records (Fig. 3). Colors were also 111 applied to certain fonts to minimize visual pollution (29). It 112 offers a digitized link to Gordon's Functional Health Patterns 113 form which existing Nursing process software does not offer. 114 This additional utility is expected to enhance efficiency in 115 communication documentation. 116

The nursing assessment form is based on Gordon's 117 Functional Health Pattern. It comprised fifteen data fields 118 and nine function tabs. The fifteen data fields were designed 119 to hold information on entry survey identification string, 120 

Folder Number:			Date of Admission:	
First Namo:			Sender:	A.r.o:
		`		Age.
Middle Name:			Next of Kin Full Name	2:
Surname:				
Residence:			Next of Kin Phone nu	mber:
Work address:			Next of kin Address:	
Email:				
			Submit Patient's	
Phone Number:			Information	Open Entry and
First Record Previou	s Record	Next Reco	ord Last Record	Exit Survey Form
Nursing Entry	and Ex	Figure 2. Admi it Surv	ssion form.	Find Next Print
Nursing Entry	and Ex	Figure 2. Admi it Surv	ssion form.	Find Next Print
Nursing Entry Folder Number:	and Ex	Figure 2. Admi	ssion form. Yey Form Search Entry Survey ID: Discharge Date:	Find Next Print
Nursing Entry Folder Number: Admission Date: Entry Survey Fields	and Ex	Figure 2. Admi	ssion form. Yey Form Search Entry Survey ID: Discharge Date: Exit Survey Fields	Find Next Print
Nursing Entry         Folder Number:         Admission Date:         Entry Survey Fields         Entry Nutrition Status:	and Ex	Figure 2. Admi	ssion form. Yey Form Search Entry Survey ID: Discharge Date: Exit Survey Fields Exit Nutrition Status:	Find Next Print
Nursing Entry         Folder Number:         Admission Date:         Entry Survey Fields         Entry Nutrition Status:         Entry Elimination Status:	and Ex	Figure 2. Admi	ssion form. Search Entry Survey ID: Discharge Date: Exit Survey Fields Exit Nutrition Status: Exit Elimination Status:	Find Next Print
Nursing Entry         Folder Number:         Admission Date:         Entry Survey Fields         Entry Nutrition Status:         Entry Elimination Status:         Entry Mobility Status:		Figure 2. Admi	ssion form. Search Entry Survey ID: Discharge Date: Exit Survey Fields Exit Nutrition Status: Exit Elimination Status: Exit Mobility Status:	Find Next Print
Nursing Entry         Folder Number:         Admission Date:         Entry Survey Fields         Entry Nutrition Status:         Entry Elimination Status:         Entry Mobility Status:         Entry Sleep Status:		Figure 2. Admi	ssion form. Search Entry Survey ID: Discharge Date: Exit Survey Fields Exit Nutrition Status: Exit Elimination Status: Exit Mobility Status: Exit Sleep Status:	Find Next Print
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Figure 3. Nursing entry and exit survey form.



34 unique nursing assessment identification string, health 35 management, nutrition, elimination, mobility, cognition, sleep, self-concept, role satisfaction, sexuality, coping, belief, 36 37 the signature of nurse, and date of assessment. The nine function tabs were designed to search the nursing assessment 38 39 form, find the next record, print the assessment form, find the 40 first assessment, find the previous assessment, find the next 41 assessment, find last assessment, save assessment record, and 42 open nursing care plan (Fig. 4). The arrangement of tabs is 43 expected to enable a more efficient surfing of the assessment form. 44

45 The nursing assessment form is based on Gordon's Functional Health Pattern. It comprised fifteen data fields 46 and nine function tabs. The fifteen data fields were designed 47 to hold information on entry survey identification string, 48 49 unique nursing assessment identification string, health 50 management, nutrition, elimination, mobility, cognition, 51 sleep, self-concept, role satisfaction, sexuality, coping, 52 belief, the signature of nurse, and date of assessment. The 53 nine function tabs were designed to search the nursing 54 assessment form, find the next record, print the assessment 55 form, find the first assessment, find the previous assessment, find the next assessment, find last assessment, save assess-56 57 ment record, and open nursing care plan (Fig. 4). This all 58 in one page construction was intended to enable a more 59 detailed analysis and comparison of the entry survey and 60 Gordon's assessment.

94 The vital signs-intake-output form comprised twenty fields and six function tabs. The twenty fields were designed to hold 95 information on objective nursing assessment such as tempera-96 ture, pulse, blood pressure, fluid intake, and fluid output 97 readings. The six tabs were designed to search for specific data 98 on the form, go to the next record, go to the first record, go to 99 the previous record, go to the last record, and save the existing 100 record (Fig. 5). This will document and maintain the patient's 101 102 health monitoring needs.

The nursing care plan and treatment form comprised seven- 103 teen data fields and 8 function tabs. The seventeen data fields 104 were designed to hold information on nursing assessment iden- 105 tification string, unique care plan form identification string, 106 date of nursing treatment, objective examination, the domain 107 of problem (NANDA-I), class of problem (NANDA-I), nursing 108 diagnosis-problem (NANDA-I), nursing diagnosis-related to, 109 nursing diagnosis-evidenced by, nursing goal, intervention, 110 evaluation, evaluation score (NOC), problem status, patient's 111 admission status, and date of discharge. The data fields for 112 the domain of the problem, class of problem, and nursing 113 diagnosis-problem were designed in such a way as to enable 114 the software to suggest related options in line with NANDA-I 115 terminology 2017 edition (25). The eight function tabs were 116 designed to execute tasks such as print nursing care and treat- 117 ment sheet, search nursing care and treatment sheet, find first 118 treatment form, find previous treatment form, find next treat- 119 ment form, find last treatment form, submit/save the treatment, 120 

Daily examina	ation string: Save
Day of examination:	First RecordPrevious RecordNext RecordLast RecordSearch
Time of examination 1:	Temprature in Celcius:
	Pulse rate in Bpm:
	Respiration in Cpm:
	Blood pressure in mmHg:
Time of examination 2:	Temprature in Celcius 2:
	Pulse rate in Bpm 2:
	Respiration in Cpm 2:
	Blood pressure in mmHg 2
Time of examination 3:	Temprature in Celcius 3:
	Pulse rate in Bpm 3:
	Respiration in Cpm 3:
	Blood pressure in mmHg 3:
Fig	gure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.
Fig Nursing Care Plan an	ure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.
Fig Nursing Care Plan an Nursing Assessment ID:	aure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.          Ind Treatment Form       Print       Search         Care plan Form ID:
Fig Nursing Care Plan an Nursing Assessment ID: Date of Nursing Treatment:	gure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.   Ind Treatment Form   Print   Search     Care plan Form ID:   Nursing Goal:
Fig Nursing Care Plan an Nursing Assessment ID: Date of Nursing Treatment: Objective Examination:	gure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.     Od Treatment Form     Print     Search     Care plan Form ID:     Nursing Goal:
Fig Nursing Care Plan an Nursing Assessment ID: Date of Nursing Treatment: Objective Examination: Domain of Problem:	rure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.
Fig         Nursing Care Plan an         Nursing Assessment ID:         Date of Nursing Treatment:         Objective Examination:         Domain of Problem:         Class of Problem:	rure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.
Fig         Nursing Care Plan an         Nursing Assessment ID:         Date of Nursing Treatment:         Objective Examination:         Domain of Problem:         Class of Problem:         Nursing Diagnosis	rure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.
Fig         Nursing Care Plan an         Nursing Assessment ID:         Date of Nursing Treatment:         Objective Examination:         Domain of Problem:         Class of Problem:         Nursing Diagnosis         Problem:	rure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.
Fig         Nursing Care Plan an         Nursing Assessment ID:         Date of Nursing Treatment:         Objective Examination:         Domain of Problem:         Class of Problem:         Nursing Diagnosis         Problem:         Related to:	rure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.
Fig         Nursing Care Plan an         Nursing Assessment ID:         Date of Nursing Treatment:         Objective Examination:         Domain of Problem:         Class of Problem:         Nursing Diagnosis         Problem:         Related to:         Evidenced by:	rure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.
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Fig         Nursing Care Plan an         Nursing Assessment ID:         Date of Nursing Treatment:         Objective Examination:         Domain of Problem:         Class of Problem:         Nursing Diagnosis         Problem:         Related to:         Evidenced by:         Signature of Nurse:         Patient Status:	sure 5. Vital signs-intake-output form.

Figure 6. Nursing care plan and treatment form.

1 2 3	Medication Forn	Date of pr Prescripti	resciption:	51 52 53			
4 5	Care plan form ID:			54 55			
6 7	Medication Form ID:		Save Record Undo Print	56 57			
8 9 10	Orals:	D	)ressing:	59 70			
10 11 12 13		Торі	cal applications:	11 12 73			
14 15 16	Injections:	Com	iments by nurse:	'4 75 76			
10 17 18 19		Adm date	ninistered on time:	77 78 78			
20 21 22	Infusions:	Sign	ature of medication nurse:	30 31 32			
23			Number of days:	33			
24 25	25 <b>Cost of medication administration per day:</b>						
26	Total cost for number of days:						
28	Figure 7. Medication form.						
29							
30			C c	)() )1			
31 32	and open medication form (Fig. 6). The shill	ity of this software	application has untapped potentials in supporting pursing deci-	'1 )2			
33	to suggest nursing diagnosis is expected to	make nursing care	sion making. Health facilities in rural areas without internet				
34	planning and delivery more accurate, timely	y, and objective.	connectivity could resort to the locally configured systems to	)4			
35	The medication form comprised ten da	ta fields and three	maximize the benefits of electronic-based documentation.				
36	function tabs. The data fields were designe	d to hold informa-	Ç	)6			
37	tion on the date of prescription details of	of prescriber care	Acknowledgments				

tion on the date of prescription, details of prescriber, care plan form identification string, unique medication form iden-tification string, orals, injections, infusions, dressing, topical applications, and comments by the nurse. The function tabs were designed to save medication records, print medication form, and undo to permit prescription adjustment (Fig. 7). This is expected to add to documenting and minimizing medication errors. 

#### Limitations

The strength of this product is that it requires no internet connection to work properly. However, the limitations are that this software configuration has not been tested in the real world for clinical validity and usability. It is still a prototype that may still undergo modifications in the future.

#### Conclusions

The configuration of readily available computer applica-tions to perform nursing-related operations is possible. The research team successfully configured one novel ENPDF software using the most available basic computer resources. A non-internet-based automated NANDA-I diagnosis suggesting

### Acknowledgments

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#### Funding None.

### Ethical approval and consent to participate

This study adhered strictly to the provisions of the Helsinki 109 Declaration as revised in 2013. The protocol of this study 110 was independently reviewed and approved by two Health 111 Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) namely: the HREC 112 of Federal Medical Centre Umuahia (FMC/QEH/G.596/Vol. 113 10/562) and the HREC of Federal Medical Centre Owerri 114 (FMC/OW/HREC/Vol. II/66). Availability of data and materials 

All data generated during this study can be provided upon 119 reasonable request. 

### Informed consent

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All volunteer participants in this study provided signed consent before participation commenced.

### **Contributions**

ACN, CE, conception; CE, JCS, SN-O, DMA, T-JD, data collection, data analysis; ACN, CE, JCS, SN-O, DMA, T-JD, data interpretation; ACN, ISA, design of study; ACN, ISA, DMA, critical revision of manuscript; CE, configuration of software; CE, JCS, SN-O, T-JD, drafting of manuscript. All the authors approved the final version to be published.

### **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare no potential conflict of interest.

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