

AONE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

FOR THE NURSE EXECUTIVE TO ENHANCE CLINICAL OUTCOMES BY LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

■ Introduction to the Guiding Principles

Technology is integrated into the fabric of health care and will most likely become increasingly part of the core fiber. The American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) recognizes the significant role technology will play in our future. In support, AONE leadership has developed several tools to assist nurse leaders in incorporating technology into their work.

Technology is recognized as a key lever within the system of health care delivery. It has the unique capacity to either reduce or increase workload demand. Creating the appropriate balance and/or impact is a critical role for leadership. Understanding the role of the nurse executive in this work is essential.

AONE first addressed technology with the development of the *AONE Guiding Principles for Defining the Role of the Nurse Executive in Technology Acquisition and Implementation*. These guiding principles were developed by a group of nurse leader experts, representing both practice and the information technology industry. Those principles and the accompanying toolkit offered nurse leaders a roadmap to understanding the unique role they must play in technology implementation.

It was a natural progression to look at further ways to leverage technology, especially addressing the issues of quality and safety. AONE pursued this endeavor with industry partner Hill-Rom. Nurse executives from AONE and subject experts from Hill-Rom met for a two-day DayofDialogue™ to explore these issues. The collaboration provided an opportunity to appreciate the potential power that partnerships between industry and nursing can exert in health care redesign.

The outcome of that DayofDialogue™ is the following set of guiding principles that outline how technology/industry partners and nurse executives can partner to leverage technology at the bedside to enhance clinical outcomes.

■ Assumptions for Enhancing Clinical Outcomes by Leveraging Technology

The following assumptions ground the *AONE Guiding Principles for the Nurse Executive to Enhance Clinical Outcomes by Leveraging Technology* and provide a background and back drop to their development and implementation.

1. The current health care work/practice environment must be redesigned to enhance quality, safety and healthfulness for today and for the future.

2. Individuals involved in health care delivery—both from clinical and technology/industry perspectives—are motivated to fix problems and to redesign systems.
3. It is clear that integrated technology is required in order to achieve work redesign for today and for the future.
4. There is no single transformational technology; this is a complex, multi-year journey that requires a co-designed roadmap to the future.
5. Environments and organizations are complex and already engaged in sometimes chaotic redesign and the implementation of multiple technology systems and products. We will not have the luxury of a fresh, clean slate from which to continue redesign work.
6. The environment and organizations within it will continue to be challenged with regulatory demands.
7. Human and capital resources will remain constrained.
8. There is a critical need for a shared model of partnership between technology/industry and the clinical endeavor. This model includes the mission, vision and values that will guide the full spectrum of industry/clinical relationships. The model supports mutual expectations of participation from both the technology/industry partner and the senior leadership team of the clinical enterprise, including the chief nursing executive (CNE), chief executive officer (CEO) and chief information officer (CIO).
9. The model is based on evidence and an appreciation of standardization as a core element.
10. Ultimately, it will be clinical outcomes that must drive industry partnerships, not merely financial indicators.

Based on the above assumptions, the following guiding principles have been developed to guide nurse executives.

■ **AONE Guiding Principles for the Nurse Executive to Enhance Clinical Outcomes by Leveraging Technology**

Attributes of the Ideal System to Leverage Technology

- A well defined governance model that defines strategic vision, roles, accountabilities and measures of success
- A well defined road map with iterative steps to successful integration and adoption of enabling technologies to enhance care at the bedside
- A collaborative model between the CNE, CIO and technology/industry partner with a structure for dialogue, outcomes and planning

Top Priorities for the Chief Nurse Executive (CNE)

1. Assure that there is a defined governance model that oversees technology initiatives
 - Define roles, accountabilities and outcomes to achieve the strategic vision
 - Align the overall technology and patient care strategic plans as the foundation for the governance model
 - Define criteria for acceptance, initiation, midcourse correction and termination of the initiative
 - Define the communication and decision-making process and the rules of engagement for all participants
 - Engage the entire C-suite in the initiative

2. Define clear, measurable, clinical outcomes for each technology initiative/project
 - Drive performance measurement based on evidence-based best practices using an adaptive model to synthesize new knowledge
 - Clearly link outcomes to the strategic plan and communicate outcomes to all working teams
 - Define a scalable and repeatable methodology to measure outcomes
 - Assure and advocate for adequate resources for data support and analytics
 - Align and integrate clinical outcomes with the quality improvement plan

3. Assume ownership of the process roadmap for future work redesign and the relationships that manage the process
 - Articulate and define a transformational vision and a strategy to achieve the vision
 - Create an effective communication plan
 - Identify, name and empower a multidisciplinary team to drive the process to its initial end state
 - Do not underestimate the complexity of process work—it requires education at all levels to achieve the cultural change required
 - Support and champion cultural transformation as the foundation for process change

Top Priorities for the Industry Partner

1. Clearly articulate the amount of process work required to achieve the results outlined in the roadmap; fully engage in the change management process
 - Provide a project plan that details the hours, resources and tasks needed to accomplish the vision
 - Scan and bring forward best practices from industry top performers versus the blank sheet approach to project planning

- Dedicate executive visibility, accountability and passion to the project
 - Gain buy-in from the organization's information technology (IT) leadership and team members on the change management needed to achieve the project plan, recognizing that IT and patient care come from different cultures with different languages and that alignment between them is foundational
2. Stop providing point solutions and provide full solution offerings even if it means partnering with the competition
- Be the integrator of disparate solutions
 - Assure full understanding of project scope and alignment
 - Facilitate the marriage of complementary technologies and services in order to provide solutions and not just one-off products
 - Seek input from clinicians into the concept development and design in research and development
3. Provide open systems that share information/interoperate across vendor platforms with zero tolerance for lack of interoperability
- Be mindful that the reason to focus on interoperability is so that clinicians can take better care of the patient
 - Work with key stakeholders, including hospital leaders, partners and competitors to develop the interoperability roadmap
 - Work in partnership with industry groups to change the standards of interoperability to establish a more coordinated effort
 - Understand the health care organization and its needs well enough to push forward interoperable opportunities across the industry
 - Develop standard and efficient methods and metrics for testing interoperability
 - Understand organizational and industry needs and best practices well enough to push a solution framework out rather than waiting to be asked for one
 - Provide your software development kit (SDK) to the health care IT marketplace in order to facilitate and assure interoperability

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Thank you to the following committee members who participated in the DayofDialogue™ and the development of these guiding principles and assumptions.

AONE representatives

B.J. Bartelson, RN, MS, NEA-BC
Chief Nursing Officer, Shriner's Hospitals for Children
Loomis, CA

Joan Shinkus Clark, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
System Chief Nurse Executive, Texas Health Resources
Arlington, TX

Shelley DiGiacomo, RN, MSN, CPHIMS
Director, Clinical Systems Information Technology, Moffitt Cancer Center
Tampa, FL

Jill Fuller, RN, PhD
Chief Nursing Officer, Prairie Lakes Healthcare System
Watertown, SD

Donna M. Herrin, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE
Clinical Associate Professor, The University of Alabama Huntsville and
Senior Advisor, Methodist Healthcare
Memphis, TN

Judy Husted, RN, MS, CNA-BC
Executive Director, Patient Care Services, Kaiser Permanente
Pasadena, CA

Kathryn Sapnas, PhD, RN, CNOR, CCRN
Chief of Nursing, Research and Informatics, Miami VA Healthcare System
Miami, FL

Joanne Seasholtz, PhD, MSN, EMBA, RN, FACHE
Principal Consultant, Siemens Medical Solutions
Morgantown, WV

Dawn A. Straub, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Director, Nursing Professional Practice and Development, Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE

Carol Watson, PhD, RN
Professor-Clinical, University of Iowa College of Nursing and 2008 President, AONE
Cedar Rapids, IA

Pamela Thompson, MS, RN, FAAN - DayofDialogue™ Facilitator
Chief Executive Officer, American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)
Washington, DC

Maricela Arias-Cantu, MS, MHA
 Director of Education, American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)
 Washington, DC

Mary Theresa Meadows, RN, MS, MBA
 Director, Professional Practice, American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)
 Chicago, IL

Meredith Paone
 Project Specialist, American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)
 Washington, DC

Hill-Rom participants

Melissa Fitzpatrick, RN, MSN, FAAN
 Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer
 Cary, NC

Mike Gallup
 Vice President and General Manager, Healthcare IT Solutions
 Cary, NC

John Harrington
 Vice President, Research and Development, Healthcare IT Solutions
 Cary, NC

Adam McMullin
 Vice President, Consulting and Business Development, Healthcare IT Solutions
 Cary, NC

Jan Mosholt
 Vice President, Sales, Healthcare IT Solutions
 Cary, NC

Clay Ritchey
 Vice President, Marketing and Strategy, Healthcare IT Solutions
 Cary, NC

Matt Crane
 Vice President, Hill-Rom Strategic Relationships
 Cary, NC

Scott Hoerner
 Director, Professional Partnerships and Clinical Operations
 Cary, NC