



NURSING ABILITIES TRACKING SYSTEM

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http://www.theideacircle.com/Nursing_Tracking.htm

Greetings Nursing Faculty!

It has been close to a year since the Nursing Abilities Tracking System (NATS) was first released. It has been a year of success on many levels. The inaugural presentation of NATS occurred at the Health Educators conference in the Spring of 2006. We were able to meet and provide a demonstration to many of the nursing faculty throughout the state. Since that time, hundreds of nursing students and faculty have been using the system! Our customers have expressed great satisfaction with the tracking tool....especially the time it saves and the paperwork it eliminates. ☺

NATS was designed for Minnesota nursing program faculty, directors, and students. NATS allows student involvement in tracking their own abilities, while allowing the instructor to electronically sign off the student by course and ability. This tracking system can be customized to each individual institution and its own nursing curriculum. NATS is available from any web based computer, allowing for easy access. NATS strongly benefits nursing faculty in maintaining and tracking the nursing abilities as required by the Minnesota State Board of Nursing. NATS also facilitates an accurate archive of past and present students' ability completion.

The release and use of NATS over the last year has produced great discussion and suggestions from users. The Idea Circle, Inc. listened to that customer input. *Here are a few of the changes made since last year:*

- Updates
 - Sharon Ridgeway at the MN Board of Nursing was contacted regarding nursing programs' use of NATS. While the MN BON does not officially endorse any products, Ms. Ridgeway seemed supportive of NATS use by programs.
- Upgrades
 - Students and faculty can track student's clinical experiences including age groups, wellness-illness continuum, diagnoses, clinical sites
 - The number of student attempts at completing an ability can be tracked
 - An alphabetical hyperlink allows efficient location of students within the data base
 - The system is programmed to automatically recognize the instructor upon accessing the systems thereby making login and electronic signature more intuitive
 - A function has been added to change the sign-off date in mass rather than just on an individual student basis

- An editing feature has been incorporated so that inaccurate student entries can be deleted
- The speed of the system has been increased to save you time
- **Soon to come**
 - Two levels of query rather than just one for quicker student/course/ability retrieval.

The Idea Circle invites you to explore the NATS product further. You can access general information at http://www.theideacircle.com/Nursing_Tracking.htm . We would be pleased to discuss NATS further with your faculty via phone conference or an on-site demonstration. Contact us if you are interested in hearing more!



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