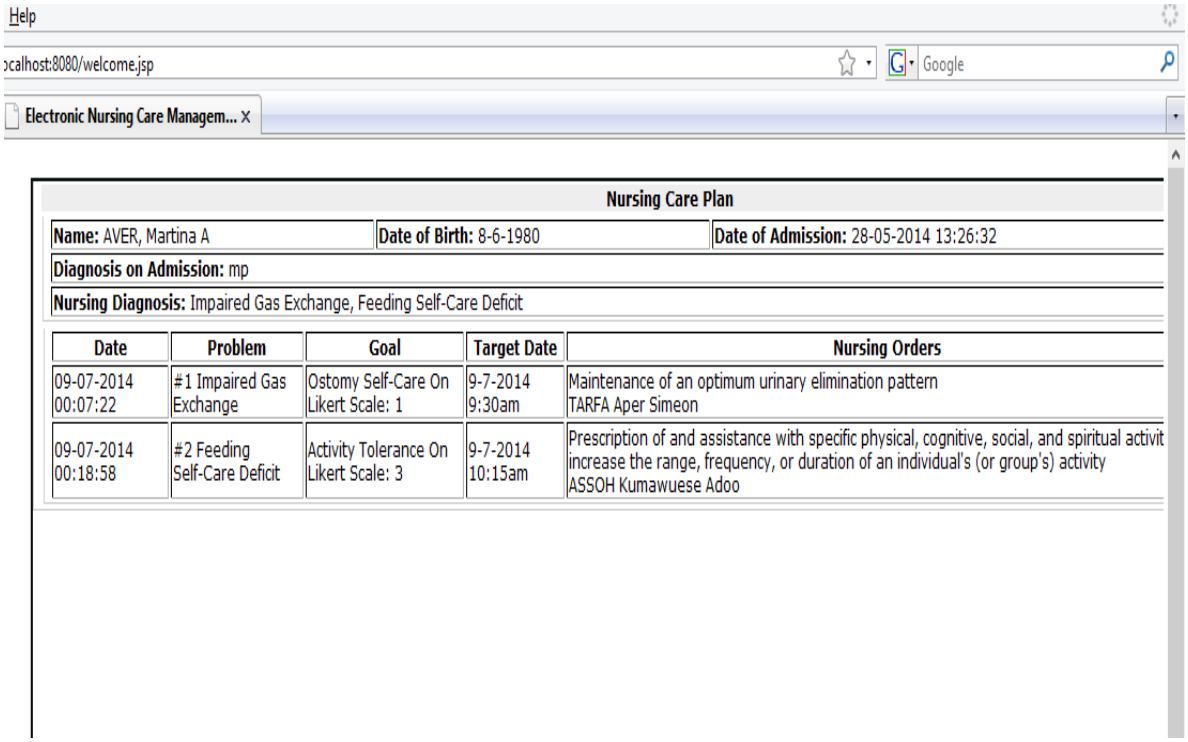
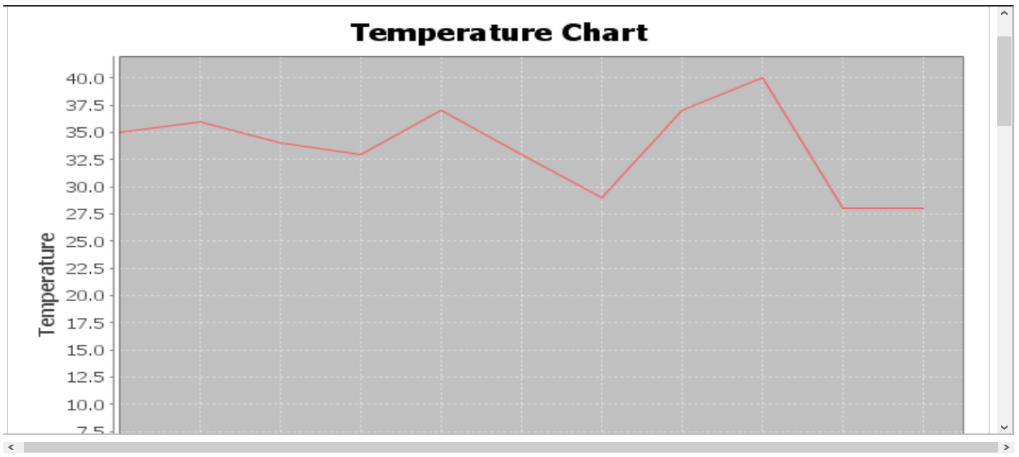
An Implementation of a Point of Care Information System for Nurses

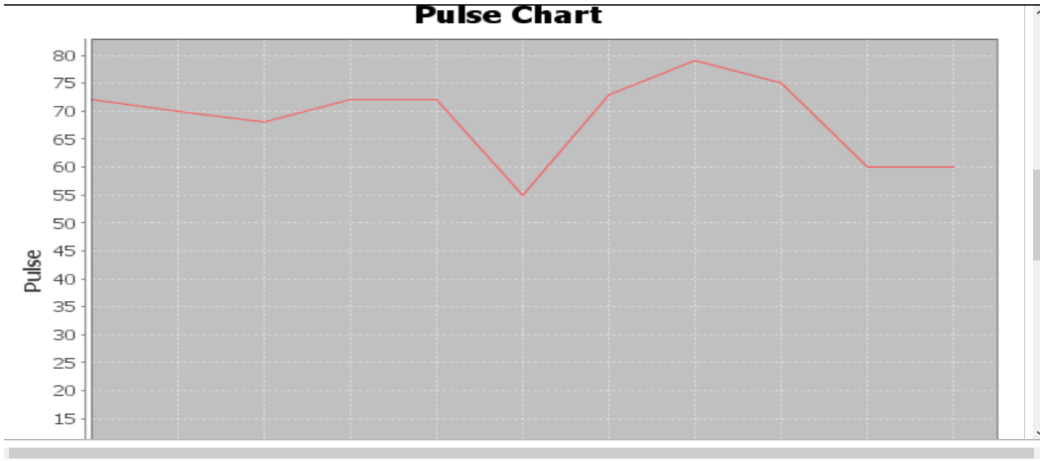
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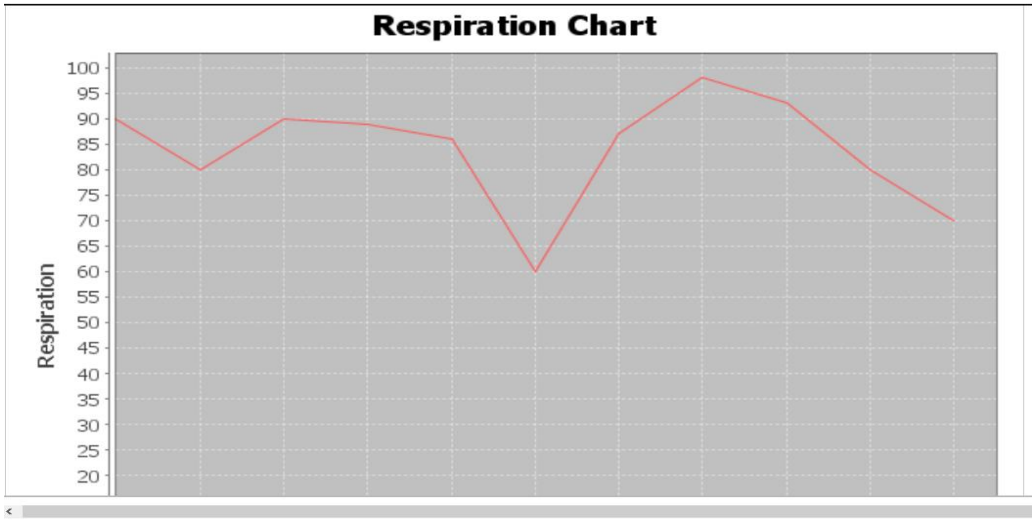
Abstract

Point-of-care information system is an important part of a clinical information system. Unfortunately, many healthcare providers especially the nurses refused to perform data entry via computers because they feel they are very difficult to use and consume more time than traditional paper based forms. In this paper, we designed a user-friendly interface for the entry of patient information which gives the healthcare provider an easy to use interface for patient data entry. This system uses portable terminals and supports the entire loop of daily nursing work. Nursing work includes a great deal of indirect work, such as documenting patient information, conferring with other health-care providers, and so on, as well as direct patient care. The time needed for this indirect work often exceeds the time actually spent directly caring for patients and needs to be reduced. This system was developed with the aim to make nursing work more efficient. The system considered the portable digital devices used by nurses to ease the data entry anywhere in the hospital, and these are connected to a server computer located in the nursing station. The system has three main functions: 1) Data Browsing which provides patient information such as a brief history, assessments and vital-sign charts; 2) Schedule Planning helps nurses organize doctors' instructions and make To-do lists for the day; and 3) Care Management which reminds nurses when they should execute the doctors' orders and provides tools for data entry. These three functions cover the entire loop of daily nursing work. Results from a preliminary hospital evaluation showed that use of the system can reduce the time needed for nursing documentation by 60% (a 10% saving of a nurse's total working time), and that more than 80% of the nurses who used the system felt it would make nursing work more efficient.









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