

Problem-Oriented Nursing. Woolley, F Ross, et al. New York: Springer Publishing Co, 1974, 167 pp, \$5.25 paperback.

This book was written for the nurse who wants to change from traditional record keeping to the Problem-Oriented Record (POR) system. It draws upon the expertise of many health care personnel and should be particularly helpful to educators and administrators who wish to apply this concept to nursing records.

The authors believe that POR can be effectively executed only if nurses are trained to use their technical and judgmental skills in assessing and managing patient care. In many instances, nurses have assessed patient needs and instituted required nursing interventions, but all too frequently, these have been inadequately documented. POR is a system designed to provide adequate documentation based on the problem-solving approach to nursing care.

To identify and assess patient's problems, the SOAP format is the recommended method to record information. The following illustrates:

S—subjective information: obtained from patient, relative, or similar source

O—objective information: based on professional observation

A—assessment: conclusion drawn from subjective and objective information

P—plan: plans to act on these conclusions.

Each problem is identified by number and active problems are transcribed to progress notes. Various types of flow sheets can be used to document current and pertinent information. Each time entries are made, they are identified by number so that continuity can be maintained in the medical record. This system of record keeping works well as an adjunct to the nursing audit, since both are based on the same principles of assessment and nursing interventions developed from problem-solving thought processes.

Problem-oriented records provide a logical basis for planning care and for communication among health team members as they cooperate to execute optimal health care to members of the community. It is important that nurses understand the basis for these records and begin to institute them in place of traditional records.

Suzanne Nelson, RN
Iowa City, Iowa

NAACOG officers for 1975-1976

The Nurses Association of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (NAACOG) has elected its national officers for 1975-1976.

President is Jean D Staats, RN, supervisor of Women's Clinic at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md. President-elect is Barbara V Bland, RN, staff nurse in labor and delivery at Kentucky Baptist Hospital, Louisville.

Other elected officers are:

Vice-president, Leah Ramer, RN, assistant professor of maternal and child health nursing at the School of Nursing, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Ind, who has been re-elected to a second term of office.

Secretary, Bonnie Wiltse, director of patient care at St Luke's Medical Center, Sioux City, Iowa, who has been re-elected to a third term of office.

Treasurer, Helen Wohler, RN, director of the RN transfer program at St Louis University, Missouri, who has been re-elected to a second term of office.

The Nurses Association of ACOG represents over 11,600 obstetric, gynecologic, and neonatal nurses in the US and Canada, organized for the purpose of promoting the highest standards of obstetric, gynecologic, and neonatal nursing practice and education.