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Technology in the Hospital: Transforming Patient Care in the Early Twentieth Century

By Joel D. Howell

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Only in the last few years have we started to see a shift toward health-care technology concepts that place a heavier emphasis on improving patient experiences. As with most new technologies, there will always be pros and cons, but it's important that privacy, care quality and patient safety remain the core focus. Read on for some of the ways technology has positively impacted the patient experience. Opening Up Better Lines Of Communication Between Patients And Clinicians. Technology allows patients and providers to communicate more quickly and clearly. Technology in the Hospital: Transforming Patient Care in the Early Twentieth Century, Joel D. Howell (illus.). Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1995, 341 pages, \$47.50. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266462300009910>. Published online by Cambridge University Press: 10 March 2009. Please use the Get access link above for information on how to access this content. Copyright. COPYRIGHT: © Cambridge University Press 1996. Recommend this journal. Full text views reflects the number of PDF downloads, PDFs sent to Google Drive, Dropbox and Kindle and HTML full text views. Total number of HTML views: 0. Total number of PDF views: 0 *. Loading metrics Abstract views. Abstract views reflect the number of visits to the article landing page. Nursing is unique among the health care professions in the United States in that it has multiple educational pathways leading to an entry-level license to practice (see the annexes to Chapter 1 and Appendix E). For the past four decades, nursing students have been able to pursue three different educational pathways to become registered nurses (RNs): the bachelor's degree, the associate degree programs in nursing were launched in the mid-20th century in response to the nursing shortage that followed World War II (Lynaugh, 2008; Lynaugh and Brush, 1996). The next most common undergraduate nursing degree is the BSN, a 4-year degree typically offered at a university. Care outside the hospital is becoming more complex as well. Nurses are being called upon to Advances in health care technology, rising expectations of people seeking care, and reorganization of health care systems require a greater number of highly educated professionals. Demographic changes, such as large aging populations in many countries of the world, also fuel this demand. Get a Britannica Premium subscription and gain access to exclusive content. Subscribe Now. History of nursing. The hospital-based training model also reinforced segregation in society and in the health care system. For instance, African American student nurses were barred from almost all American hospitals and training schools. During the second half of the 20th century, nurses responded to rising numbers of sick patients with innovative reorganizations of their patterns of care.