

Implementation Guidelines for Using NOC on a Nursing Information System

1. The information system should clearly indicate that NOC is being used.
2. NOC outcome labels and definitions should appear as stated and be clearly labeled.
3. Indicators should not be labeled as outcomes, but should be labeled as outcome indicators.
4. Documentation outcome measurement should always be captured at the outcome label level. In addition, an agency may choose to measure and capture specific outcome indicators in order to assess patient progress.
5. The number of outcome indicators required should be determined by those needed to measure patient status for the specific population.
6. Outcome indicators included in the information system should be written as they appear in NOC.
7. The NOC measurement scale should be retained for each outcome and included in the information system. It is recommended that measurement scales also be retained for outcome indicators. In both instances the anchors for the measurement scale can be made more specific, if desired.
8. NOC outcomes and measurement should be a permanent part of the patient record with ability to retrieve this information.
9. The time and date of each outcome measurement should be documented in the information system for each patient.
10. The information system should include the capability of linking outcome measurement with NIC interventions, nursing diagnoses, and other relevant data for each patient.
11. The information system should offer the opportunity for nurses to define outcome goals by selecting the expected value on the measurement scale to be achieved for each outcome.