BACKGROUND
At least 12 standardized terminologies represent the domain of nursing knowledge; each having unique, implicit ontologies that describe nursing diagnoses, interventions, and/or outcomes. The need for interoperability across systems supports the development of a uniform blended ontology, based on common semantic interpretation. To attain the goals of data reuse and interoperability, the ontologies that underlie these terminologies must be explicated and mapped.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this study was to map equivalent concepts within ontologies of the ICNP diagnosis and the Omaha System, in order to enable mapping of the two terminologies.

MAPPING CONCEPTS

RESULTS
ICNP and Omaha System ontologies were mapped. Many-to-one mappings across concepts were necessary due to the complexity of the combined conceptual structures. ICNP diagnoses mapped to all components of the Omaha System.

CONCLUSIONS
Prior to mapping terminologies it is critical to understand implicit ontological structures. Further research is needed to develop logic that will elucidate mapping between terms in ICNP and the Omaha System, support interoperability, and advance the science of knowledge representation toward a uniform nursing terminology.

Toward a Uniform Nursing Terminology: Mapping ICNP and the Omaha System

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