Social media are changing the ways people communicate and influencing their approaches to meeting their healthcare needs. However, little is known about how nurses have adopted the use of social media (SM).

The IOM recommended the utilization of informatics as one of the five core competencies all clinicians should possess to meet the needs of the 21st-century health system.7 SM consist of a number of different kinds of online tools/platforms, such as social networking sites (eg, Facebook, LinkedIn, Google+), social question and answer sites (social Q&A) (eg, Yahoo! Answers, Wik Answers), blogs, microblogs (eg, Twitter), SlideShare, podcasts, and YouTube.

SM can incorporate patients’ viewpoints and their personal experiences and/or distributing timely health messages to a wide range of populations quickly.8,9 Moreover, SM can incorporate patients’ viewpoints and their personal experiences and/or distributing timely health messages to a wide range of populations quickly.8,9 This was an online survey and the recruitment invitation was sent out through online channels; therefore, the sample population consisted of mostly APRNs and RNs who used the Internet frequently and confidently. RNs who used the Internet frequently and confidently.

The anonymous survey questionnaire included five sections: (1) informed consent for the survey, (2) questions about the use of social media, (4) demographic and background information, and (5) a closing page with instructions for completing an anonymous online survey.

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Prior to data collection, the survey questionnaire was pretested by seven nurses for clarity in wording and flow. The survey was administered through Qualtrics, an online survey tool (Qualtrics, Provo, UT).

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