

White Paper:  
Orienting Nursing Students to Clinical Sites  
Veronica O'Neill  
New Jersey City University

## White Paper: Orienting Nursing Students to Clinical Sites

### Introduction

Nursing students spend time in many different practice settings during their training program. They care for patients in long-term-care facilities, hospitals and in the community. In each of these settings, they must be familiar with the emergency procedures which are specific to the location, so they can assist as needed in a fire, evacuation, or medical emergency situation. This White Paper will examine the current practice of orientation in these clinical settings, and propose a solution using iBeacon technology to convey necessary information to nursing students.

### Problem Statement

Interacting with and caring for actual patients in a clinical setting is an essential part of nursing education. The New Jersey Board of Nursing requires that Registered Professional Nursing programs provide an equal number of hours of theoretical study and clinical experience in the program (NJ Consumer Affairs, 2011). Some of this clinical time may be spent in a simulation lab, but the National League for Nursing has maintained that at least 50% of the clinical hours must be in an actual practice setting (National League for Nursing, 2015). To meet these requirements, nursing programs arrange for clinical placements for their students in many settings, including long-term-care facilities, hospital units, and community nursing sites. Each of these settings has specific emergency procedures, and it is imperative that all personnel at the location be aware of what to do in the event of an emergency.

Nursing students assigned to a clinical setting must be familiar with fire and evacuation procedures, and be aware of the location of medical equipment such as crash carts. Currently,

when a group of students begins a clinical rotation, their instructor provides a paper-based scavenger hunt. As students locate each item on the scavenger hunt, they check it off their sheet. There are some limitations to this process. Even in the best case scenario, students physically locate all of the emergency equipment, such as the fire alarm box, fire extinguisher, and crash cart. They do not have the opportunity to review the emergency procedures for that particular equipment at the time of the scavenger hunt. In the worst case scenario, students can merely check off that they visited all locations.

In discussions with faculty members at the New Jersey City University Nursing Department, the possibility of building a more robust orientation experience using technology was explored. There were several requirements identified during these discussions. First, there could be no permanent installation of equipment at the clinical sites. Any equipment used must be easy to transport, easy to set up, and easy to remove quickly at the end of the clinical session. No additional staff could be utilized to deploy the equipment. Ideally, the technological solution would allow for some sort of assessment at the end of the exercise, to ensure completion of the exercise and understanding of the materials reviewed.

#### Proposed Solution

iBeacon technology is an emerging technology that is being used in many settings. It uses a low-power Bluetooth signal to transmit a signal to a nearby receiving device, such as a smartphone or iPad. When the receiving device receives the signal, additional information is transmitted to the device through the Internet, such as marketing material or information about a museum exhibit. The technology is most familiar in retail settings, such as the Apple Store, where iBeacons were introduced in 2013 to assist customers in selecting and paying for merchandise (AppleInsider, 2013). This technology has also been utilized by libraries, museums

and other locations to assist and engage visitors and provide enrichment materials (Dempsey, 2016; Graceland, 2014; Kern, 2016). The devices are also being promoted for use in education (Locly, 2014). Recently, iBeacons have been used in a self-guided tour of the A. Harry Moore School, showcasing the school's history and present operations (AHMiBeacon Project, 2015).

There are several advantages to the choice of iBeacons for the Nursing Orientation project. All of the NJCU nursing students are issued an iPad at the beginning of their program, so there is no issue with availability of devices. The app needed to interact with the iBeacons, Locly Sandbox, is free. The iBeacons are programmed using the free Project application on the Locly.com website. Using this application, photos, video or audio can be uploaded and associated with particular iBeacon devices. Each iBeacon can also link to supplemental material, such as the procedure for operating a fire extinguisher. The content can also include embedded Google forms, to capture feedback and assessment data. The information on the Project application can be updated easily, with no programming required. Maintenance on the iBeacon devices is limited to changing the batteries, which are expected to last 1 to 2 years.

The initial investment for the iBeacon devices for this initiative was \$249, direct from the manufacturer, for 8 beacons. However, these beacons can be reprogrammed for many different clinical settings, by creating new Projects on the Locly website, so only one set of iBeacons is needed. In most existing cases, iBeacons are installed in permanent or semi-permanent locations, but in this situation, portability is a key feature. This problem was overcome by mounting the iBeacons on a Lucite photo frame with Velcro. The frames are easily set up and collected in a matter of minutes.

The project timeline for this application is available in Appendix A. To date, the programming of the iBeacons for one specific clinical location has been completed, and the

project has passed initial acceptance testing by the Nursing Department. The next step will be a test in the Nursing Simulation Lab, assisted by current students, to gather feedback and reaction. Based on this feedback, the programming may be adjusted. In the Spring semester, the iBeacons will be deployed for live orientation of students.

Selected screenshots of the Orientation Project on the Locly Sandbox app are attached in Appendix B, as well as a copy of the Google form used for assessment and feedback, in Appendix C.

The project has been submitted to ISTE 2017 as a poster session. The proposal submitted is attached as Appendix D, and a link to the companion website for the presentation is included in Appendix E.

### Conclusion

The Nursing Department is beginning a new initiative to enhance its students' experience during orientation to new clinical sites. This will be accomplished through the use of iBeacon technology, combined with the Locly Sandbox app. This technology will allow students to receive important information about emergency procedures in the clinical location, and will assess their retention of the information presented. This solution was chosen because it is flexible, content can be updated easily, and the iBeacon devices can be reused for multiple clinical sites.

## Appendix A

## Orienting Nursing Students to Clinical Sites with iBeacons

## Project Timeline

September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine specifications with Nursing Department</li> <li>• Complete background research</li> <li>• Complete video tutorials to learn Locly applications</li> <li>• Submit proposal for poster presentation to ISTE 2017</li> </ul>
October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain clinical site content from Nursing</li> <li>• Load content to Locly Project site</li> <li>• Program iBeacons to link to Locly app</li> <li>• Test Locly app</li> </ul>
November/December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver iBeacons and Project application to Nursing</li> <li>• Testing in Simulation Lab by current nursing students</li> </ul>
January 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust programming based on feedback from students</li> </ul>
February 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploy iBeacons in an actual clinical rotation</li> <li>• Adjust as needed based on feedback and performance</li> </ul>
Summer 2017/Fall 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present project at a major conference</li> </ul>

## Appendix B

Screenshots of Locly Sandbox app:

AT&T M-Cell 10:53 AM 75%

< Back Fire Alarm Box

### Fire Alarm Box

In the event of fire, remember to

**RACE:**

1. **R**escue - move everyone away from the fire area according to established procedure on your unit
2. **A**larm - pull the alarm box
3. **C**onfine - close doors as you evacuate the area, to slow the spread of the fire
4. **E**xtinguish - if you are comfortable, use the fire extinguisher to put out a small fire

AT&T M-Cell 10:53 AM 75%

< Back Fire Extinguisher

### Fire Extinguisher

To use a fire extinguisher, remember to

**PASS:**

1. **P**ull the pin
2. **A**im the nozzle at the base of the fire
3. **S**queeze the handle
4. **S**weep the stream from side to side slowly

Appendix C

Assessment

Clara Maass Tour Review - Google Forms

11/10/16, 11:33 AM

Clara Maass Tour Review

SEND



QUESTIONS

RESPONSES

### Check your understanding

Please answer the following questions after your clinical site tour.

What is your full name? \*

Short answer text

What do you do in case of fire? \*

- PASS
- SLAP
- RACE
- FLIP

In case of fire, \*

Row 1. Remove patients from fire area	Column 1. Rescue
Row 2. Pull the alarm box	Column 2. Alarm
Row 3. Close doors as each area is evacuated	Column 3. Confine
Row 4. Use a fire extinguisher if you are con	Column 4. Extinguish



**How do you operate a fire extinguisher? \***

- PASS
- SLAP
- RACE
- FLIP

**To extinguish a fire \***

Row 1. Pull the pin	Column 1. P
Row 2. Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire	Column 2. A
Row 3. Squeeze the handle	Column 3. S
Row 4. Sweep from side to side	Column 4. S

**We appreciate your feedback based on your tour experience. \***

Long answer text

Appendix D

Proposal for poster presentation at ISTE

ISTE 2017

9/30/16, 11:00 PM

FOR PRESENTERS

FOR ATTENDEES

FOR EXHIBITORS

ISTE 2017 | 25-28 SAN ANTONIO

# proposal submission form

## Proposal synopsis

Your proposal is complete and has been submitted for consideration.

**Format**

**Session format** Participate and share (Poster)

**Converted format**

**Audience**

<b>Focus/topic</b>	Digital age teaching & learning: Innovative learning environments
<b>Subject area</b>	Career and technical education
<b>Audience role</b>	Teachers
<b>Grade level</b>	Community college/university
<b>Skill level</b>	Beginner
<b>Skill prerequisites</b>	n/a

**General information**

<b>Title</b>	Take a Tour with iBeacons
<b>Description</b>	iBeacons are an emerging technology that broadcasts media rich content to participants' personal mobile devices. In this application, nursing students are oriented to a clinical site using an iBeacon tour. Data is collected to validate that each participant completed the tour, and formative assessment is included to demonstrate content understanding.

ISTE 2017

9/30/16, 11:00 PM

**Special conditions**

**Additional details**

**Attendee resource** <http://bit.ly/NJCUiBeacons>

**ISTE Standards** ISTE Standards T--2

**Standards addressed** This application of iBeacon technology allows the instructor to link physical locations in the clinical site with relevant information delivered to participants' devices. This use of iBeacons supports ISTE Standard 2a for Teachers, using a technology that is common used to aid in marketing and for other commercial uses, to enrich the orientation experience for participants. Formative assessment is included to ensure understanding of the supplemental materials. In most cases, iBeacons are used in a permanent installation. The application is notable because the iBeacons are deployed on a temporary basis during the orientation session, and then collected for reuse.

**Commercial presentation**

**Presenter constraints**

**Logistics**

**Attendee devices** Devices useful

**Attendee device specifications** Smartphone: Android, iOS

**Participant accounts, software and other materials** In order to view the supplemental material, the Locly app should be installed on attendees' personal devices.

**Summary**

**Purpose and objectives** This iBeacon project was conceived to enhance the experience of nursing students as they complete their orientation to a clinical site. Even though most iBeacon installations are intended to be permanent, a series of temporary iBeacons is used to locate important sites on the nursing unit, such as the fire alarm and crash cart. Students access background information on each site through the Locly app, and answer questions in a formative assessment. At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to use their personal mobile devices to locate iBeacons and access supporting materials on the Locly app. Participants will be empowered to use iBeacons in their own practice settings.

**Outline** An iBeacon will be incorporated into the poster site, which will permit participants to experience the use of the iBeacon and to see the supporting material provided on the Locly app. In addition, a participant website will be available to document the project in greater detail, and provide support for implementation of a similar project by educators.

**Supporting research** Newman, N. (2014). Apple iBeacon technology briefing. *Journal of Direct, Data and Digital Marketing Practice*, 15(3), 222-225. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1057/dddmp.2014.7> Dani, A. S. (2015). Location monitoring application using iBeacon-simulating office environment (Order No. 10020635). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (1771508833). Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1771508833?accountid=12793> "Macworld/iWorld Leverages iBeacon and Passbook Technology." *Professional Services Close-Up* 27 Mar. 2014. *Business Insights: Essentials*. Web. 13 Aug. 2016. URL <http://draweb.njcu.edu:2240/essentials/article/GALE%7CA362891326?u=jers45639> McFarland, M. (2014). How iBeacons could change the world forever. Washington: WP Company LLC d/b/a The Washington Post. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1476453796?accountid=12793> "CEA Features iBeacon Scavenger Hunt at 2014 International CES." *Entertainment Close-up* 7 Jan. 2014. *Business Insights: Essentials*. Web. 13 Aug. 2016. URL

ISTE 2017

9/30/16, 11:00 PM

http://draweb.njcu.edu:2240/essentials/article/GALE%7CA354876626?u=jers45639 "Eventbase Previews iBeacon Technology at SXSW." Wireless News 12 Mar. 2014. Business Insights: Essentials. Web. 13 Aug. 2016. URL  
 http://draweb.njcu.edu:2240/essentials/article/GALE%7CA361835307?u=jers45639 "London's Guildhall Galleries rolls out iBeacon platform." Total Telecom Magazine 17 Dec. 2014. Business Insights: Essentials. Web. 13 Aug. 2016. URL  
 http://draweb.njcu.edu:2240/essentials/article/GALE%7CA393912500?u=jers45639 Eng, S. (2015, December). Connection, not collection: using iBeacons to engage library users. Computers in Libraries, 35(10), 12+. Retrieved from  
 http://draweb.njcu.edu:2048/login?url=http://draweb.njcu.edu:2175/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA437506702&sid=summon&v=2.1&u=jers45639&it=r&p=AONE&sw=w&asid=1ace151e3a62102fcb9ff6f0a458ea8b  
 "Graceland Introduces Interactive iPad Tour." Professional Services Close-Up 24 Aug. 2014. Business Insights: Essentials. Web. 13 Aug. 2016. URL http://draweb.njcu.edu:2240/essentials/article/GALE%7CA379659731?u=jers45639 Deordica, B., & Alexandru, M. (2014). ADVERTISEMENT USING BLUETOOTH LOW ENERGY. Review of the Air Force Academy, (2), 65-70. Retrieved from  
 http://search.proquest.com/docview/1528862696?accountid=12793 Dempsey, K. (2016, May). Bluetooth beacons are starting to shine in libraries: when a beacon recognizes an equipped smartphone, it pings out its message. Computers in Libraries, 36(4), 28+. Retrieved from http://draweb.njcu.edu:2048/login?url=http://draweb.njcu.edu:2175/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA451633160&sid=summon&v=2.1&u=jers45639&it=r&p=AONE&sw=w&asid=6340c75ea3e44589642b2d2a346624  
 Kern, J. (2014, Apr 17). App guides users through st. thomas stations tour. Intelligencer Journal / Lancaster New Era Retrieved from  
 http://search.proquest.com/docview/1517079762?accountid=12793 Digital tour of sights cairns edition]. (2015, Mar 30). The Cairn Post Retrieved from http://search.proquest.com/docview/1667270333?accountid=12793

#### Presenter background

Kevin O'Neill, DNP, RN is the Chair and an Associate Professor of Nursing at New Jersey City University. Dr. O'Neill has presented extensively on the use of educational technology to support nursing education. Dr. O'Neill spearheaded the use of the iPad mini b students and faculty in the NJCU Accelerated BSN program iNurse Initiative. Dr. O'Neill is a 2016 Apple Teacher. Veronica O'Neill a Doctoral Student in the New Jersey City University Educational Technology Leadership program. One focus of this program is the application of emerging technologies to solve educational problems. She is a 2016 Apple Teacher. Her work on this project include providing the background research on the iBeacon project, programming the devices, creating the Locly site for the project, and designing the website for participants.

#### Presenters

Kevin O'Neill; koneill@njcu.edu (Presenter)  
 Veronica O'Neill; veoneill@optonline.net (Presenter)

REMOVE PROPOSAL

[Return to presenter menu \(speaker\\_menu.php\)](#)

Unsaved changes will be lost.

## Menu

[Return to your presenter menu \(speaker\\_menu.php\)](#)

Unsaved changes will be lost.

#### Contact us

Submission questions:

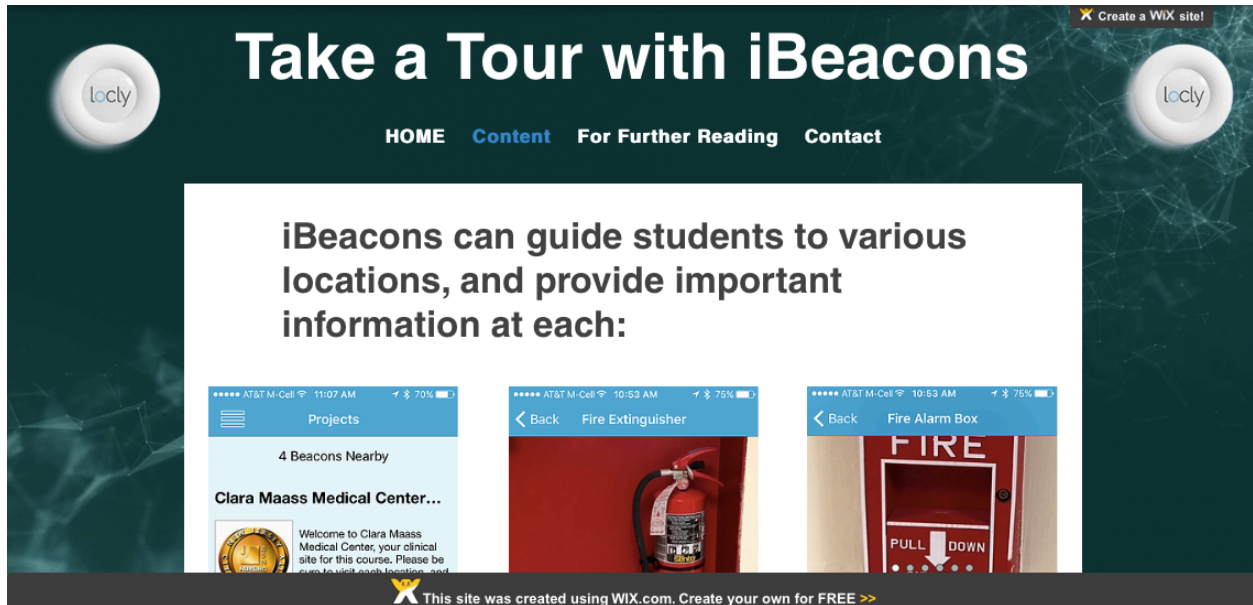
[conf-program@iste.org \(mailto:conf-program@iste.org\)](mailto:conf-program@iste.org)

General conference questions:

[iste@iste.org \(mailto:iste@iste.org\)](mailto:iste@iste.org)

## Appendix E

Companion website for ISTE presentation:



<http://bit.ly/NJCUiBeacons>

## References

- AHMiBeaconProject (2015). A. Harry Moore iBeacon Project. Retrieved from <http://ahmibeaconproject.wikispaces.com>
- AppleInsider (2013). First look: Using iBeacon location awareness at an Apple Store. Retrieved from <http://appleinsider.com/articles/13/12/06/first-look-using-ibeacon-location-awareness-at-an-apple-store>
- Dempsey, K. (2016, May). Bluetooth beacons are starting to shine in libraries: when a beacon recognizes an equipped smartphone, it pings out its message. *Computers in Libraries*, 36(4), 28+. Retrieved from <https://www.questia.com/magazine/1P3-4071858121/bluetooth-beacons-are-starting-to-shine-in-libraries>
- Graceland (2014). All new interactive iPad tour revolutionizes guest experience at Elvis Presley's Graceland. Retrieved from <https://www.graceland.com/news/details/all-new-interactive-ipad-tour-revolutionizes-guest-experience-at-elvis-presleys-graceland/7519/>
- Kern, J. (2016). App guides users through Stations of the Cross tour at St. Thomas Episcopal. Retrieved from [http://lancasteronline.com/features/faith\\_values/app-guides-users-through-stations-of-the-cross-tour-at/article\\_6c1329ce-c50b-11e3-98cb-0017a43b2370.html](http://lancasteronline.com/features/faith_values/app-guides-users-through-stations-of-the-cross-tour-at/article_6c1329ce-c50b-11e3-98cb-0017a43b2370.html)
- Locly (2014) Getting started with Locly Sandbox for education. Retrieved from <http://www.slideshare.net/locly/getting-started-with-the-locly-i-beacon-app>
- National League for Nursing (2015). A Vision for Teaching with Simulation. Retrieved from [http://www.nln.org/docs/default-source/about/nln-vision-series-\(position-statements\)/vision-statement-a-vision-for-teaching-with-simulation.pdf?sfvrsn=2](http://www.nln.org/docs/default-source/about/nln-vision-series-(position-statements)/vision-statement-a-vision-for-teaching-with-simulation.pdf?sfvrsn=2)

New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs (2011). Information for Registered Professional Nursing Programs. Retrieved from

<http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/nur/Documents/Nursing-Programs/Information-for-Registered-Professional-Nursing-Programs.pdf>