The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) required healthcare providers in the United States to adopt and demonstrate meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs) by January 1, 2014. In many ways, EHRs mark a notable improvement over paper medical records since they are more easily accessible and allow for electronic searching and sharing of medical histories. However, since EHRs have become mandated by ARRA, many nurses now rely upon computers during nurse-patient interactions, thereby decreasing the level of direct interpersonal communication. There is evidence that eye contact between nurses and patients positively affects patient satisfaction. Above and beyond the issue of patient satisfaction is the more basic ethical issue of respecting the patient as a person. How can we ensure that the nurse-patient experience is not thoroughly mediated by technology that we may risk the loss of respect for the patient? The author argues that the templates used in electronic health systems like Epic, the most used healthcare software in the United States, have the possibility of eroding the respect for humanity that is the hallmark of nurse-patient relationships. Respect for the dignity of the patient is the first principle of the American Nurses Association in their Code of Ethics. Using concepts from philosophers Martin Heidegger and Emmanuel Levinas, the author provides guidance as to what an ethical interaction between nurse and patient should look like in an age of EHRs.