Electronic Health Record

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Abstract
As a result of the challenges associated with an implementation of technology in healthcare, some of the health facility management and administration do not support the implementation of technological advancements. However, it has been proved through several studies that improved patients care is enhanced by technology advancement (Lee et al, 2013). This is supported by how many patients continuously seek medical imaging services since most physicians consider them to be good diagnostic procedures. Through the work of this practicum research project, the need for the health facility to support quality patient care through technology advancements has been demonstrated. It has been shown that technology support patient care because it; makes it possible for healthcare providers to share patient information, is possible for patient progress to be monitored, enables patient self-centered care and becomes possible for patient medical records to be accessed easily.

Introduction
When technology is used effectively in health care settings, various benefits can be realized. Technology refers to how scientific knowledge is applied for practical purposes that support material extraction and creation of tools. Therefore, there is a need for administrators of health organizations to understand how practices in their health center can be revolutionized by technology. In this case, when technology services are implemented in health care delivery; patients can be able to interact with health professionals hence are in a position to obtain the necessary services. Nevertheless, hospital administration should also support health information technology to be able to enhance efficiency and quality patient care. As shown by several studies, incorporation of technology in terms of EHR (electronic health records) support the proper recording of patient information. This helps to reduce adverse events and medication errors. Moreover, the treatment process is made faster since delay cases are low. This helps to reduce health disorders complications and proper management of health conditions.

Electronic storage of health information is one of the most effective strategies adopted by many countries to promote their health sector. Reliable health records help the medical practitioners to save time which was previously spent on searching patient's information necessary for effective medical provision. Information such as the medical history of the patient helps in assessing the medical problem and the best approach to address it. However, establishing electronic health records in many developing countries has been a major challenge. In Saudi Arabia, initiatives have been put in place to promote the establishment of an electronic health record system in public hospitals. This is according to the information which was issued the ministry of health. To validate this information, the paper analyzes the information gotten from the public on the electronic health record and challenges which the government of Saudi Arabia has faced in implementing electronic medical records program. Adopting electronic health records is one of the most effective strategies for promoting health in medical centers.

Study objective

This project aims at establishing the knowledge held by the people in Saudi Arabia on the importance of electronic health records. Additionally, the research will establish the benefits that citizens of Saudi Arabia are expecting to get after complete implementation of health records in public healthcare centers. The research will also establish how electronic health records will promote the provision of healthcare among the patients by promoting sharing of patient's information.

1. Understanding how technology can be used to improve patient care
2. Analyzing how technology can improve an organization outcomes
3. Demonstrating the effectiveness of technology to improve patient care

Health administrators and technology

Health care administrators deal with various issues in a healthcare facility. This includes supporting quality patients' care, ensuring a health facility has enough medical staff and ensuring the facility is financially stable. Therefore, even though their work is not to offer medical treatments; they support the making of decisions regarding health care demands and prevention of diseases. As shown by some research studies, incorporation of technology in a health facility is associated with various side effects and disadvantages like hacking of patient confidential information (Lee et al, 2013). Therefore, most hospitals have not yet fully embraced the implementation of technology advancements in their facilities. However, as also presented from various studies patients health care is being improved through technology advancement (Khalifa, 2016). Previously, in my workplace in Saudi Arabia as an intern in a hospital, Mujahati or the hospital directors face the challenge of not integrating technology to improve patient care.

It explains that the hospital management team does not support the technological progress of the organization. This is because, despite the challenges associated with the use of technology, management explains that the full implementation of the technology at the facility is very costly and may ultimately result in a loss. However, they also argue that since some health care providers are not familiar with most advanced technological devices and tools, their installation may not ultimately produce fruits (Boulos et al., 2014). Thus, through my efforts and my teacher's support, we want to conduct extensive research to encourage the hospital management that adopting technology will be a good strategy that will help to better care for patients.

Work on the project is set in a good period, because if it is completed successfully the management will be in a better position to give further guidance on whether technological progress will be applied to the quality of patient care to be supported. Until late, the hospital has no modern medical tools including medical imaging tools. Patients are therefore forced to seek these services from other modern medical centers, resulting in fewer patients currently receiving them.

Research method

To be able to understand how technology can help to improve patient care, a descriptive method of study will be used. The research will use the survey method type of study. Hence, appropriate information will be obtained from health facilities utilizing technology to facilitate patient care and it will be compared with information that will be obtained from health facilities that do not use technology to support patient care (Lin, 2017). Data will be collected through interviews, questionnaires as well as through observational method of study. The project work is set to take four months. This period will allow the collection of necessary information and materials that will help the hospital management to understand why it is good to enhance improved patient care through the help of technology.

Results

The results of the study showed that the majority of the patients lacked knowledge on the electronic method of storing health data. However, they were concerned about the amount of time which they spend during the verification process in different public hospitals. Additionally, the majority of the patients failed to explain their medical history which shows it can it is a major challenge to healthcare providers when assessing the medical problems affecting the patients. Another important factor which was evident is that majority of the patients had misplaced their medical records issued to them in the past which is a major problem when they seek medical attention in different institutions.

The results showed that 100 percent of healthcare providers felt that the electronic method of keeping patient's information could significantly improve their performance. They acknowledged that much time is wasted when trying to establish the medical history of the patient. Therefore, medical practitioners felt that electronic health records can significantly improve their performance. Hospital management expressed the challenges they faced in adopting electronic health records. Firstly, the program requires huge capital investments which were a big challenge in public hospitals. Another problem faced by hospital administration was the skilled labor which was required to ensure that the program was functioning properly. However, in the hospitals which had succeeded in establishing electronic health records, it was evident that patient care was effective and faster as compared to other institutions without an electronic method of storing patient's information. 90 percent of the medical practitioners in those institutions felt that provision of medical services was much better. To ensure that electronic health records were effective, the healthcare organizations which had succeeded in implementing this program had a well-established information technology department which ensured that all the patient's information was available when required.

Patients who used healthcare centers with electronic health records had a better experience in the service provision. Firstly, spent less time as compared to other medical centers with manual data storage methods. Also, their medical history was accurately established which made the treatment more effective. Another factor which was evident is the flexibility of their treatment. With electronic health records, their information.

Discussion

Electronic health records can significantly improve the health care among the patients. The following are applications of electronic health records which can significantly improve the health experience of patients in Saudi Arabia

Health care providers are able to share patient information

Physicians and the healthcare facility can easily share patient information through technology. For instance, telemedicine has been used in rural areas by patients so as to get doctor's advice (Aebersold et al, 2013). In this case, medical professionals consult concerning the patient condition and this enables the patient to know whether she can address the problem at home or whether she will have to travel to health care center for treatment. Moreover, through the help of technology, clinicians working in different departments can be able to communicate regarding patient medical procedures, thereby making it possible to offer effective treatment (Lin, 2017). Most importantly, effective communication of the many health care providers handling a patient condition helps to prevent errors and miscommunication.

Patient medical records are kept safe

Electronic filing of patient records has been shown to save the life of most patients. This is due to how the patient's health information is properly organized and easily accessible. Therefore, health care providers are able to access any information concerning a patient quickly and hence be in a position to provide necessary health care services (Khalifa, 2016). Consequently, very few errors in terms of medication error and wrong diagnosis can take place. This is due to how patient information is clearly recorded and can be easily accessed from any point of the health facility (Boulos et al, 2014). This shows that quality care is supported by electronic filing of patient record. Additionally, electronic filling allows compliance with HIPAA regulations in an easier way. Therefore, health care providers are free from frustrations, which often results from failing to comply with regulations of HIPAA. Moreover, when patient information is kept safe, it becomes possible for providers of health care to securely and easily track the information.

Patient-centered care is supported

Through the help of technology patient-centered care has been made possible. In this case, email, text messages and online portals have fostered communication between patients and healthcare providers. Most importantly, has made it convenient for patients to improve their self-monitoring because they can access their information especially from a facility online medical record (Aebersold et al, 2013). Furthermore, patients' gets to learn more concerning their long-term medical condition thereby making it possible to properly support the restoration of their wellbeing. Moreover, patient's family members and friends are able to understand the care which the patient needs and be able to offer it to him.

Patient progress and condition can be easily monitored

Through implementing EHR, the quality of inpatient care has been greatly improved in most health facilities. It is possible for healthcare providers to monitor the progress of patients from the screen. This is especially very effective when there are a limited number of specialistwho is able to handle a certain health condition. Therefore, a specialist in the area of concern can monitor the progress of multiple patients through the help of technology (Lee et al, 2013). This helps to reduce cases of morbidity and mortality. Similarly, a primary health care provider can easily follow how the collaborating team including the behavioral health care providers are delivering health care services.

In conclusion, patient care can be improved through technology. Through advances in technology, it becomes possible for healthcare professionals to share patient information. This makes it possible for the patient to obtain the best form of treatment. Furthermore, patients' health records are safely and properly kept and this allows health providers to access them easily. Moreover, technology support provision of patient-centered care. In this case, the health providers, friends, and family members are able to contribute towards the wellbeing of the patient. Finally, through technology patient condition is easily monitored. In this case, the specialist can be able to monitor many patients through the screen. This, therefore, shows that there is a need for healthcare facility administrators and management to implement technology advancement so as to have improved patient care.

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