

E-RECORD KEEPING SYSTEM IN HEALTHCARE: STEP TOWARDS DIGITAL INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Digital India is a dream project of the present government that aim to digitalise all functioning of the government including healthcare. As India is geographical diversified country and have reach population 1.324 billion in year 2016. It emerged as great challenge to provide healthcare to such as huge population residing in so diversified region. Ehealth system is one of the initiatives to taken by the government to endow with healthcare services to all. It emerged as new platform to serve the people over the globe. The government has taken up various projects to digitalise the information related to healthcare system which including patient's records, knowledge base related to medical care. The digitalization of records provides secure access to patient's health information electronically. Record keeping system involves participation of doctors, patients, nurses and healthcare professionals. All the participants require the knowledge of ICT. The present research is an attempt to review the role of ICT in healthcare services.

Keywords: ehealth, Electronic Record System, Healthcare Professionals, ICT, Healthcare system

INTRODUCTION

Information technology plays a significant role in healthcare system. The ehealth is the platform that provides the medical assistance, information and records to the patients with most convenient way [1]. It stores and maintains the patient's lifetime medical record such as what kind of drugs patient was taking, what kind of drugs patient taking currently etc. Healthcare professionals can take better and safer decisions by analysing patient's history. The data related to healthcare institutions can also be analysed to study the business prospective and to take proactive actions to enhance the growth of the institutions [2]. The present study explores the various factors related to scope of electronic health care system and challenges faced by the stakeholders in healthcare industry.

E-HEALTH SYSTEM

The ehealth system is a platform, which provides information related to healthcare system in a most convenient manner to the patients and healthcare professionals. The major role of ehealth system is to digitalise the services are being provided in the traditional hospital system [3]. The database management system takes care of the way to store and retrieve data in a most efficient manner. The healthcare system is passing through transient phase where old healthcare system taking place the new healthcare system, known as ehealth care system. The ehealth care system is capable to serve huge population with the use of information and communication technology. It is a technical fusion of ICT and medical science which emerged as new healthcare service which is cheaper, easy to avail and fastest among the other healthcare services. The patient can seek doctor's advice while sitting at his convenient place. The digitalization of patient record helps the healthcare professionals in quick access of patient's medical history. In spite of significant usefulness of ehealth system, there are various issues faced by the healthcare professionals and patients. Most of healthcare providers are not so much friendly with this new technical environment. The patients are not aware and technical capable to avail these services. The financial reports of government institutions show huge financial investments to promote ehealth services in the country [3]. Following are the carious issues, which state the scope and use of digitalisation of records under the domain of ehealth services [4, 5, 6].

Quality and efficiency: The digitalisation enhances the quality and efficiency of service providers as availability of data in digital form enables them to perform operational task with ease.

Review history of patients: The digitalisation of patient records enable the physician to go through the patient history. The electronic record keeping saves data for long time. The healthcare professionals can easy review history records to make decisions and can treat the patients in better way.

Work force management: The electronic health record keeping system involved lesser number of people as compared to traditional manual record keeping system.

Reduce redundancy: The duplication of records can be reducing by keeping records electronically. It also saves lot of space to preserve hard copies of records. All medical records like X-rays, MRI, Pathological reports can digitally store in single chip.

The digitalization of records helps to develop automatic system to manage data in more accurate manner. The patients can also access records and check health status. The automated health record keeping system that provides complete and accurate information of your health issues to the concerned healthcare professional [7, 8, 9]. In fact, the patients can also gain complete information of his/her health and can take part in health care decision of his/her health. Figure1: shows some key points, which explain the need of electronic health records:

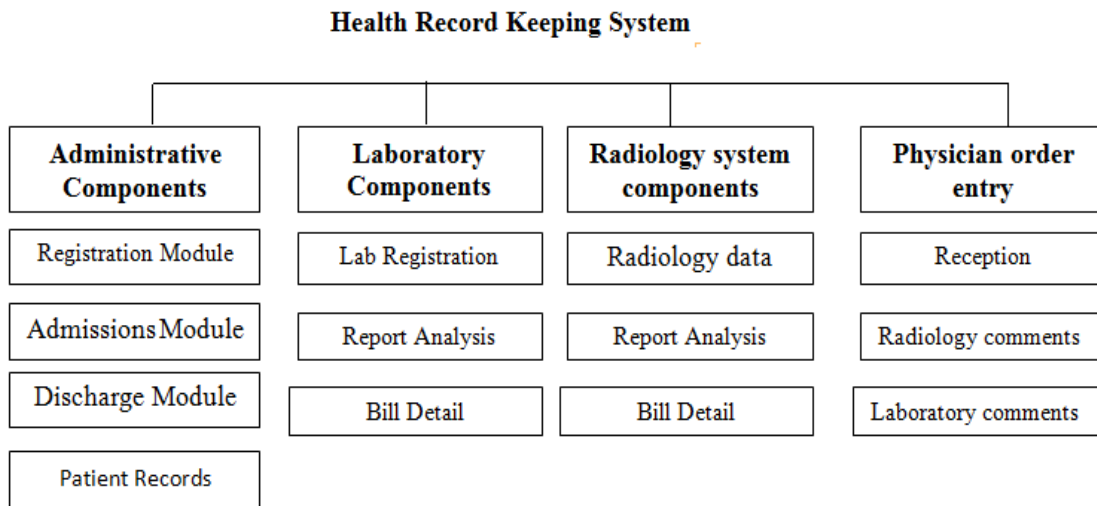


Figure1: Show various components of record keeping system

There are some strategies used for the success of electronic health record system, which includes national network for providing connectivity with various health institutions. The multi site expansion of hospitals to provide latest facilities connected through national network.

CHALLENGES IN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD KEEPING SYSTEM

The computerization of health care system is a challenging task and performed in phased manner. The first challenge is to provide training to staff involved of using ehealth record system to the concerned people like hospital staff, community clinics and healthcare professionals [10]. The following are the various issues that play significant role in implement ICT for medical care.

Maintenance of health care records: The ehealth record system needs maintenance of records. The records need should be update and proper backup is required.

Technical advancement in report and rural areas: The major challenge is to provide technical infrastructure to report and rural areas where basic need of life are limited. The government is trying to provide basic facilities in these areas so that they can connect with multi-facilities hospitals.

Standardization of record structure: The global standardisation of record keeping is a never-ending problem, which requires common efforts and consent.

Expensive and long process: The information and communication technology and medical fusion required huge financial investment and providing these facilities to large population is another financial challenges.

Lack of staff with adequate knowledge: The medical staff’s needs proper training to use ICT based of record keeping system. The most of the staff in the medical institution are lacking with adequate knowledge of ICT based systems. The staff should provide adequate knowledge of record keeping system.

CONCLUSION

The electronic health keeping system enhances the efficiency medical health practitioners. It is an effective tool for improving communication between patients and doctors. To provide health care services to huge population is challenging task and keeping records information is a complicated task. It is required to establish network to all medical institutions and common standardize databases system need to develop to store information in common format. Adequate knowledge of ICT and proper training to paramedical staff are required.

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