

Why PHR when EHR is the record of future?

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Only the Abstract is available

Abstract

The 20th century has revolutionised the medical records system from simple cards to comprehensive unit records and later EHR in effective healthcare delivery.

Materials and methods: Examination of the last century records will enlighten as to what type of medical records are required for the 21st century and beyond. So that everyone has access to swift, safe and good quality care at an affordable cost.

Results: Patient care information is scattered, disintegrated due to the fact that patient gets treatment at different health organisations. Patients treat themselves or seek other services such as herbal, unani, homeopathy and ayurveda. All this information is not available to physicians.

Discussions: In spite of this fact, the EHR is proved to be the record of future, experiencing hurdle and being tackled by applying various international standards like HL7, SNOMED-CT, LOINC, ICD, DIOCOM, NCPDP etc., to be fully interoperable. The PHR as a Health Passbook, is a lifelong electronic, universally available document, containing information relating to birth, mother's delivery, congenital anomalies, immunisations, episodic, hospitalisation, self medications and other habits including significant events, advance directives of living wills, organ donor authorisation. This book will have information regarding patient identification data, health summary, child development, immunisations, self care/treatments, medications, investigations, hospitalisation, obstetric gynecology, therapy, chronic disease, and dental.

Conclusion: Effective EHR at health institution level and PHR at personal level linking together and complementing each other will add value for accomplishing complete information that would help providing comprehensive continuity of care at the right time, right place and right cost. This system will prevent duplication of investigations, medications, delay in care, check on risk and cost.

Keywords - PHR, EHR, medical records, international standards