

Research-Based Benefits of using EMR Technology

Name

Course

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Introduction

Research is an invaluable part of the modern healthcare organizations' administration process. At the same time, the application of technology in the healthcare management is increasingly becoming an essential aspect of everyday operations. One of the areas where the use of technology has become necessary is the healthcare patient medical record management system. The electronic medical records system (EMR) is a process whereby all the health-related information belonging to individual patients and other stakeholders are created and centrally managed within a healthcare organization.

The Benefits of EMR Technology

Quality, efficiency, and safety in health care services provision are now possible mainly because of the ability to gather more medically relevant information through continued research process. However, for this data and information to be relevant and useful to any healthcare facility or organization, there has to be a way of ensuring that it is correctly gathered, generated, stored, managed and retrieved as and when required. This applies even to patients' records and management-based records. All these can be accomplished via the use of electronic health record technology. This technology promotes the application of electronic health records (EHRs) which makes the delivery of health care to individuals more efficient and expeditious. According to Menachemi and Collum (2011), some of the benefits associated with the application of EMR in health research may be classified into societal, organizational and clinical outcomes. The organizational outcomes include operational and financial benefits while the clinical outcomes are reduced medical faults and improved quality of services. The societal advantages of this technology are reduction in healthcare costs, improved health of the population and the enhanced

ability to conduct health research (Menachemi & Collum, 2011). Furthermore, a study by Hillestad Bigelow, Bower, Girosi, Meili, Scoville, and Taylor (2005) found out that the use of EMR as a health care information technology by health organizations has several potential benefits in the long run. One of these is safety benefits. With the introduction and application of this technology, the accuracy in the performance of various medical procedures and processes is likely to be improved hence enhancing the safety of both medical or nursing staff and patients. The study also shows that the implementation of EMR technology in a health organization can save up to \$81 billion every year in medical costs. Besides the efficiency savings, the costs of adopting EMR technology in health administration are far much less than the possible profits that can be achieved through its use.

Purpose of Applying Research in Health Administration

The use of health research has various purposes. One of the primary objectives of using research in health administration is that it avails very crucial health-based information on different practices, public health interventions and practice, healthcare costs, treatment outcomes, risk factors and trends in transmission of diseases. Through research, a health care organization can know the best medical intervention that should be used to provide high-quality health care services to patients. Moreover, the purpose of research in health administration is to help in the development and discovery of new ways or therapeutic approaches to different health conditions, illnesses, and disorders. The resultant impact of this is that it improves the quality of public health, which is beneficial to the national economy through increased population productivity. A healthy nation is more likely to be productive and hence is a healthcare organization. The information-based research also provides the required evidence for addressing the various healthcare needs of people seeking treatment. Health research is also utilized in the policy

formulation and decision making process (Henney, Gonzalez-Block, Buxton, & Kogan, 2003). According to these authors, policy making on various health care problems relies on the availability of evidence from research that informs solutions for these issues. Research utilization thus promotes evidence-based health care policymaking process since there is an assumption that research-informed policies on health are better than those that are not based on any evidence from research.

The Influence and Significance of Stakeholders

Stakeholders in health care play an invaluable role in the utilization of research in health care. Some of the stakeholders whose contribution and involvement in the research utilization include policy makers, health care institutions, and associations, caregivers, advocacy groups, patients, researchers, and clinicians. The health care organizations and institutions influence the research utilization process by providing their views on certain aspects of the research and how it can be used to improve health care outcomes. The health care policy makers' contribution to the research utilization is significant in that it provides them with the background information and knowledge upon which to base their decisions and policies affecting public health. They need to have evidence to help them in designing health programs such as insurance coverage. For the success of the health research, the input of the researchers themselves cannot be ignored as their presence adds value and reliability to the research outcomes. According to Hartzler, McCarty, Rasmussen, Williams, Brilliant, Bowton, et al. (2013), the incorporation of genetic material into the HER and clinical care requires the involvement of stakeholders whose contribution is critical for a successful implementation process. These authors contend that the input of stakeholders is also crucial in handling any challenges that may be associated with execution.

Conclusion

As has been shown above, the significance of EMR technology and related utilization in health research cannot be gainsaid. EMR technology not only improves the quality of health services but also saves health care costs, facilitates health administration and ensures efficiency. The primary purpose of using research in health management is thus to act as an evidence base for the realization of these benefits of EMR. However, to ensure the success of this process, there is a need to involve all the relevant stakeholders with an interest in the positive outcome of the research.

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