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by H M

Submission date: 01-Apr-2023 08:53PM (UTC-0400)
Submission ID: 2053106663
File name: NUR_348_Writing_Paper_11_Assignment.edited.docx (20.83K)
Word count: 1903
Character count: 11754

NUR 348 Writing Paper 11 Assignment

Student

Professor's Name

Course Code

Date

Nursing (Option I)

Electronic Health Records (EHRs) Technology in Healthcare Setting

Introduction

Electronic Health Records (EHRs) in healthcare have revolutionized how care is delivered. EHRs are digital records that capture and store patient data, including demographics, medical history, medications, and treatments administered, among other information. This technology was designed to replace paper-based charts in hospital settings with comprehensive electronic databases that authorized personnel can access whenever needed. The purpose of using such a system within the healthcare setting is twofold. Firstly, it increases accuracy when recording or retrieving patient data while allowing for efficient storage where a massive amount of information can be securely held on one platform (Pai et al., 2021). This eliminates any chances for manual errors due to reliance on paper documents solely.

Secondly, it enables better communication between different health practitioners, leading to the timely delivery of quality services and greater collaboration among teams providing care for the same patients, ensuring no details are overlooked. In addition, its use results in improved safety outcomes through quick access to vital clinical resources from virtually anywhere at any time, reducing medication administration time and ensuring optimal dosage levels, reducing adverse effects associated with drug interactions (Pai et al., 2021). Therefore, EHRs enable continuous improvement across all healthcare systems, resulting in higher satisfaction ratings amongst users, providers, and consumers, facilitating an overall positive experience when receiving treatment.

Benefits of EHRs

For technology utilized in healthcare settings, electronic health records (EHRs) have become increasingly popular due to their advantages, such as improved accuracy in data collection

through automated processes; increased efficiency when handling patient-related information; better communication between care providers; enhanced clinical decision making with access to real-time patient data among others (Mollart et al., 2020). On the downside, however, EHRs can be financially and technically expensive since they require significant investments regarding hardware installation or software updates needed for proper functioning.

Second Technology: Telemedicine

Another type of technology not used is telemedicine which provides remote medical diagnosis through video conferencing or phone calls allowing patients who may not get face-to-face contact with physicians to receive quality care without having physical visits at hospitals/clinics each time there are complaints about their health conditions. This technology has great benefits, such as saving time for patients and physicians and improving access to quality healthcare services in remote areas with limited health facilities. However, telemedicine can be expensive since it requires advanced technologies that may not be available or accessible to all (Haleem et al., 2021). Additionally, delays caused due to poor network connections have been reported.

Impacts of EHRs on Improving Patient Care

Electronic Health Records (EHRs) have revolutionized the medical field by improving patient care. EHRs are digital versions of a person's health records, allowing for more effective and efficient healthcare management. This technology provides physicians with an extensive database containing all relevant information about a patient's diagnosis and treatment plan, allowing them to make informed decisions quickly when providing care. Additionally, it eliminates unnecessary paperwork and transcription errors associated with manual data entry methods used in traditional paper-based systems. With this system, patients can receive timely

access to their health records from any computer or mobile device at any time (Haleem et al., 2021). This is done through secure portals provided by hospitals and clinics using EHR software solutions such as Epic or Cerner platforms. It further increases efficiency while reducing redundant workflows between providers compared to relying solely on paper charts alone.

Furthermore, advances made in the development of EHR systems have enabled clinicians conveniently store digital images, including X-rays, directly into databases without having separate physical copies stored separately - saving time during appointments since doctors no longer have to rely heavily on referring back previous notes written down manually before switching over onto electronic documents instead (Haleem et al., 2021). This results in faster turnaround times when dealing with direct contact cases involving critical illnesses like heart attacks.

EHRs have also made it easier for medical practitioners to bill patients since they can now process claims electronically instead of relying on manual paperwork, which may be time-consuming and prone to errors due, especially when dealing with multi-level insurance companies. Moreover, EHR systems can generate automated reminders that alert providers about important events such as upcoming appointments or medication refills, which helps ensure better management of patient care by reducing the risk of missed opportunities in treatment plans due lack of information sharing between different healthcare establishments within the same network - something the traditional paper-based system could not provide previously (Tapuria et al., 2021). This further improves overall quality levels across the board regardless of where the individual is geographically speaking.

Roles and Practices of Health Care Workers, About Patient Confidentiality and Identity

Healthcare workers, particularly nurses, are critical in protecting patient confidentiality and safeguarding their personal information. Nurses ensure that all medical records remain private; only authorized personnel can access them (Tapuria et al., 2021). The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 outlines various standards to ensure privacy regarding healthcare data.

Nurses must abide by HIPAA regulations on how they collect, use, or disclose health information about patients while providing care services as outlined in the legislation's Privacy Rule. They are required to maintain security safeguards such as encrypting electronic medical files or storing physical documents safely away from unauthorized individuals who may attempt to breach these confidential records for unethical reasons such as identity theft or insurance fraud (Alraja et al., 2019). In addition, nurses should take steps like using secure messaging systems instead of email when transmitting patient-related data between colleagues so that any sensitive material does not end up being exposed online unintentionally due to hacking attacks.

Moreover, ethical concerns arise when protecting confidential healthcare data since potential conflicts exist between upholding professional integrity and maintaining an environment where trust can be established freely among patients and health practitioners. For instance, situations may crop up where a nurse could act unethically if he/ she discloses patient information without their consent, even if it is in the best interest of another party (Alraja et al., 2019). Furthermore, according to HIPAA regulations, nurses should be aware that any deliberate attempt to access or misuse private healthcare data can result in criminal charges and severe penalties.

Nurses are very important in safeguarding confidential medical records while providing care services (Alraja et al., 2019). Therefore, they must abide by applicable laws such as those

outlined under HIPPA and consider ethical considerations before accessing or sharing sensitive health-related information about patients with other parties.

Technological Advances in Improving Access to Health Care

Technology has revolutionized how health care is accessed and delivered worldwide. In particular, technological advances have made it easier for patients to access medical services without physically visiting a hospital or clinic (Torous et al., 2020). This improved accessibility increases convenience and reduces time wastage while waiting for appointments with specialists or doctors in traditional settings.

One of the major technological advances that have been instrumental in improving healthcare access is telemedicine systems which allow patients to interact with their physicians via video conferencing tools integrated into digital platforms such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops. With these systems, users can easily schedule an appointment online at any time convenient instead of going through long queues at clinics during busy hours. Also, they receive timely feedback from their providers on how best they can take control over the management of chronic diseases like diabetes mellitus type II. Telemedicine also allows remote areas with limited resources related to quality healthcare delivery to bridge this gap by providing quick response times. Additionally, some hospitals leverage technologies such as AI-driven chatbots which provide general information about illnesses 24/7 (Torous et al., 2020). This helps to improve access and reduce wait times for patients who would otherwise have had to book an appointment which might take days or weeks.

Technological advances in healthcare delivery, such as telemedicine systems and AI-driven chatbots, have greatly improved the accessibility of healthcare services worldwide. Through these advancements, it is now easier for people living in remote areas with limited resources to

communicate quickly with their providers without physically visiting a hospital or clinic (Torous et al., 2020). This has reduced the time wastage associated with long queues in traditional settings and improved response times when needed most.

Incorporation of Learned Aspects into Future Nursing Practice

Incorporating knowledge gained through technology use, such as Electronic Health Records (EHRs), Telemedicine, and all aspects discussed in this paper into my future nursing practice will be beneficial. As a nurse practitioner, EHRs provide me with an efficient way to store patient data so that I can easily access it when needed. This helps create better communication between team members by providing real-time information regarding the patient's condition, essential for timely decision-making. Additionally, understanding the roles and practices of healthcare workers related to confidentiality will help protect client records from unauthorized access while adhering to ethical standards set forth by HIPAA regulations. Finally, telemedicine provides patients living in remote areas with easy access to healthcare services at their convenience without traveling long distances or waiting for appointments; this ensures quality treatment is provided quickly regardless of where they live or work. By utilizing these technologies in my nursing practice, I can ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved and the improved satisfaction level for all clients.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is clear from this discussion that EHRs are important in improving patient care outcomes and enhancing communication between providers, patients, and other stakeholders. With its unique features, such as portability, availability of accurate information at all times, and real-time data updates, among others, it is no doubt that EHRs will continue to be an integral part of any successful health system for many years to come. Furthermore, with developments in

medical technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning algorithms, the capabilities of EHR systems would only grow further over time, making them more robust. Therefore, investing resources into research on how best we can use these tools will go a long way towards ensuring better quality healthcare delivery globally now and in the future too.

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