Hospital Information System Survey in Qatar

Rashid Al-Ali^d, Shane Reti^a, Henry Feldman^a, Charles Safran^a, Rashid Niaz^d, Alistair Erskine^d, Ahmed Elmagarmid^c, Abdulwahab Al-Musleh^b

^aDivision of Clinical Informatics - Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at BIDMC, Boston, USA. ^bHamad Medical Corporation, Qatar. ^cQatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar. ^dSidra Medical and Research Center, Qatar

Abstract

Healthcare can be enhanced by the effective use of information technology to improve the quality and safety of care and many healthcare providers are adopting advanced health information technology to improve their healthcare delivery process. Qatar is a relatively young Middle Eastern country with an ambitious and progressive national strategy to develop its healthcare system, including an advanced e-health infrastructure delivering the right medical information at the right time to clinicians and patients. To assess the effectiveness of such programs, it is important to have a pre-intervention baseline from which comparisons, performance against target measures and forward thinking strategic planning can be grounded. This study presents the first published campus wide survey of Hospital Information Systems in large public and private hospitals in Qatar. Objective: To qualitatively assess and describe the current state of Hospital Information Systems in large hospitals in Qatar, and to establish a baseline or reference point for Qatar's readiness for, and adoption of Hospital Information Systems.

Keywords: Hospital Information Systems (HIS), Electronic Health Records (EHR).

Methods

Telephone and personal surveys of key health information technology executives from public and private hospital providers in Qatar. All public hospitals and 4 out of 6 private hospitals presented in this study are using some form of a Hospital Information Systems (HIS). Most are using a Hospital Management System (HMS) supporting hospital administration and management processes. Radiology Information Systems (RIS) and Laboratory Information Systems (LIS) are the next most commonly deployed HIS components. Electronic health records (EHR) and Pharmacy Management Systems (PMS) are absent, or only utilized 50% of the time in some hospitals.

Conclusion

All hospitals in Qatar already have a health information technology infrastructure that undertakes hospital information system administrative functions. Further strategic planning is required to support deployment of Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Pharmacy Management Systems (PMS).

References

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Results

Table I - Public Hospita	- Public Hospital	s
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Hospital	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Туре	General	Rehab.	Women	Oncology	General	Cardiac	General
Beds	611	480	343	51	117	112	321

Table 2 - Private Hospitals

Hospital	1	2	3	4
Туре	General	General	General	Women & Children (New)
Beds	71	100	50	350

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