ABSTRACT:

Privacy and Confidentiality in the Electronic Health Record:

Whose Responsibility is it?

Introduction

Technology continues to develop at an incredible pace and is being leveraged more and more in the healthcare industry. The Electronic Health Record (EHR) is facilitating more timely access to, and sharing of, clinical information among healthcare providers, with the ultimate goal of providing better patient care. However, as more patient information is captured and stored centrally the responsibility for the safe keeping of this patient information becomes blurred and threatens the privacy of the patient.

Discussion

Historically, care providers have maintained a custodial responsibility for maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of their patients' clinical information. This responsibility was built on a foundation of trust that the provider would maintain and disseminate information, to other providers, only as necessary and in the best interest of the patient.   Healthcare professionals acted as patient advocates and disclosed information based on sound knowledge and judgment.

As technology evolves and the concept of an EHR is actually being realized, through the central storage of clinical information, the responsibility for the security of this information is now shared across providers, patient and jurisdictional authorities. This shared responsibility poses numerous challenges and conflicts which all jurisdictions are struggling to resolve.

Conclusion

This presentation discussED, in depth, the challenges faced by jurisdictions, providers and patients in assuming their responsibility for securing health information in an EHR and provide some practical alternatives for early EHR deployments.

BIO:

Karen Korb   Karen.korb@telus.com 613 -576-2056

Karen Korb is a Senior Clinical Consultant with over thirty years of health care and information systems related experience. She has firsthand experience in the delivery of patient care and hospital management. Karen has also led organizational level projects in the area of business process re-engineering, workflow and documentation analysis, organizational restructuring, performance measurement and information systems implementation.

Karen holds a Diplôme d'Étude Collégiale (Nursing) from Vanier College, a Bachelors of Science (Honours, Life Sciences) from Queens University and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Ottawa.