

TITLE: The Wheels for Change: Critical factors influencing electronic health records (EHR) implementation: important lessons for Saudi Arabia public hospitals

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Introduction:

It has become clear that paper record systems are unable to meet contemporary patient information needs and that well implemented and designed electronic health records (EHRs) can do so. Yet, despite this situation it has been shown internationally that the implementation of EHRs is low and that there are significant barriers to EHR implementation.

Aim:

The aim of this paper is to explore the influence of hospital managers on EHRs implementation in their hospitals.

Methods:

This paper is based on a comprehensive review of the research literature to define the relevant factors that influence EHR implementation in order to produce useful guidelines for EHRs implementation.

Results:

The results show that a range of barriers to and facilitators of EHR implementation have been identified. These include issues relating to IT technical requirements and infrastructure but also change management, organizational policies and the motivational and training preparation of the management and workforce to embrace the changes required by EHR implementation as well as their involvement in the actual change process in healthcare delivery and healthcare workers expectations and involvement.

Conclusion:

This paper using an evidence-based review identifies the key factors that influence successful EHR implementation that should be identified before costly investments are made. The paper discusses the implications of these findings for the implementation of EHR systems into MOH public hospitals in Saudi Arabia.