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The challenge of today's HITC

The original vision for electronic health records (EHRs) arose from the problem that physicians and other practitioners often provide patient care without knowing what has been done previously and by whom, resulting both in wasteful duplication and in clinical decisions that do not take into account critical data related to the patient's health. Yet the development and implementation of EHRs has been a journey of overcoming impediments. It is important to learn from these mistakes and adopt a new strategy for eCare that must include mHealth, participatory medicine (involving patients as active participants), new approaches for interoperability, and it must take advantage of the features that the Digital Society offers. In many countries, healthcare systems must use HITC to reduce costs and make the financial system more transparent. At the same time, technologies enable patients to become active participants in the healthcare process. Also, digital technologies make it possible for the examination and care process to take place in a "virtual care space" that involves the home, hospital, doctors' offices, and other wellness and fitness provider locations. Instead of depending on one lone doctor or specialty, the collective expertise of care and wellness providers must be brought into the process. The current system based on episodic or periodic evaluation must migrate to one that provides continuous assessment. For these changes to be successful, structures and payment systems must be changed.

Biography

C Peter Waegemann was CEO of Medical Records Institute for over 25 years. He was also Executive Director of Center for Cell-Phone Applications in HealthCare (C-PAHC) and President of mHealth Initiative. Since the 1980s, he has been a visionary and promoter of electronic medical record systems (EMRs). He is internationally known as one of the top experts in healthcare informatics, has published both in the US and in Germany, and is a sought-after speaker on EHRs, eHealth, and mHealth. He has special expertise in electronic patient record systems, standards, networking, telemedicine, and the creation of the national information infrastructure. He has testified to US Congressional committees. In 2007, he was cited as one of 20 outstanding people who make healthcare better (HealthLeaders). He is the Author of hundreds of publications, and the Editor of 18 proceedings books; 100+ published articles and the Past Editor-in-Chief, "Health IT Advisory Report".

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