

2nd International Conference on Health Informatics and Technology

July 27-29, 2015 Valencia, Spain

Smart information technologies in home healthcare: An integrative adoption model

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It has been frequently reported that more than 40% of previous information technology (IT) developments in various sectors including the health sector have failed or been abandoned due to the lack of understanding of the socio-technical, cognitive, affective and contextual aspects of IT. Smart home healthcare information technologies (sH2IT) are one of the emerging technologies that hold promise to make clinical information available at the right place and time, thereby reducing error and increasing safety and quality of care. Existing sH2IT research has focused on technology development and clinical applications with limited discussion of the above aspects. The main goal of this research is to develop an integrative adoption model to sH2IT. The researchers used a mixed method design that combined interview (N=15) and survey (N=270) over two studies. The participants were recruited from home healthcare agencies on the east coast of the U.S including both patients and health professionals. The researchers analyzed the data of the two studies using Kvale's approach and Partial Least Square (PLS), respectively. The findings of the qualitative study identified various themes in relation to sH2IT adoption, including human detachment concerns, legal concerns, security concerns, privacy concerns, life quality expectancy and cost concerns. In addition, the findings of the quantitative study provided empirical support for the research model built based on the findings of qualitative study. The model has substantial predictive power accounting for more than half of the variance of sH2IT adoption. The findings provide insights on how home healthcare service providers and technology designers may improve the success of sH2IT technologies.

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Impact of Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) act on the implementation of health information exchange and the direct technology in Illinois

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The United States healthcare industry is one of the most fragmented systems among the industrialized Western countries. This fragmentation has resulted in an annual expenditure of approximately three trillion dollars, low quality and expensive care, with approximately 45 million uninsured patients. In order to transform the healthcare industry into a more effective system with less duplication of diagnoses, reduced error rates, improved access and reduced cost the government provided a sum of 30 billion dollars to encourage the adoption of certified electronic health records by eligible providers and the implementation of health information exchanges. The aim of the health information exchange implementation is to facilitate the secure sharing of health data and information among providers in order to coordinate care and reduce error rates and inefficiencies. This, ultimately, will reduce costs and improve quality of care. In addition to the subsidies provided to encourage the adoption of certified electronic records the government has also provided 40 billion dollars to encourage providers to use the health information exchanges to satisfy meaningful use requirements. Research on the impacts of these policies is still ongoing. This study summarizes the experience of the state of Illinois in the adoption of certified electronic health records and the direct health information exchange technology in sharing health data. Policy measures for the improvement of adoption of these technologies are provided.

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