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STRIPA: An effective and efficient rule-based decision support system for medication reviews in primary care

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The chronic use of multiple medicinal drugs is growing, partly because individual patients' drugs have not been adequately prescribed by primary care physicians. In order to reduce these polypharmacy problems, the Systematic Tool to Reduce Inappropriate Prescribing (STRIP) has been created. To facilitate physicians' use of the STRIP method, the STRIP assistant (STRIPA) has been developed. STRIPA is a stand-alone web-based decision support system that advices physicians during the pharmaco-therapeutic analysis of patients' health records. In this talk the application's architecture and rule engine and the design decisions relating to the user interface and semantic interoperability are described and demonstrated. First, an experimental validation of the prototype by general practitioners and pharmacists has shown that users perform significantly better when optimizing medication with STRIPA than without. Second, our longitudinal study results indicate that the system's efficiency improves over time. Concluding, we argue that a process-oriented decision support system such as STRIPA, built around a context-aware rule engine and operated through an intuitive user interface, is in fact able to contribute to improving drug prescriptions in daily practice.

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Missing cervical cancer patients in India: Time to rejuvenate follow up strategy through mhealth

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Cervical cancer is the one of the most common cancer in women worldwide and a major health menace among women in low and middle income countries like India. In many studies conducted in India, it was found that mounting number of cervical cancer patients are missing after their first hospital visit due to inappropriate screening and follow up strategy. In the backdrop of this grave situation mhealth or mobile health seems to be an effective remedial mechanism. The unprecedented spread of mobile technologies as well as advancements in their innovative applications to address health priorities has evolved into a new field of eHealth, known as mHealth. Therefore it is proposed that during their Pap smear test all women and their relatives contact mobile number should be taken to create Health directory. After cytopathology report creation, it will be send to concerned mobile number via SMS with attached Pap report copy and the physician's advice about normality or abnormality in the local language and guidance for further line of action. If their report is abnormal, they will be specifically rang with advice and guided to follow visit to the concerned treatment facility. If they fail to follow advice then nearest responsible public health professional can be asked to seek these women in regular terms for specialize treatment. This proposed theory can supplement and even replace the overburdened brick and mortar healthcare system in providing unprecedented healthcare diffusion deep in society, realizing universal concept of 'Affordable Health for All'.

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Notes:

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Page 79