Letter to Editor   **Open Access**

Virtual Hospital: An Opportunity to Access the Heath Care Systems without Time and Place Constraints

Mansour Ghafourifard[*]

Department of Nursing Education, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Iran

[*]**Corresponding author:** Ghafourifard M, Department of Nursing Education, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Iran, Tel: 4515789589; +989149264132; E-mail: m.ghafori@yahoo.com

Citation: Ghafourifard M (2017) Virtual Hospital: An Opportunity to Access the Heath Care Systems without Time and Place Constraints. J Nurs Care 6: 379. doi: 10.4172/2167-1168.1000379

Letter to Editor

Todays, use of the internet within health care system is growing rapidly. The internet as enabling technology for communication can be utilized from any office or household. Moreover, health care professionals appreciate patients' engagement in internet based education and interventions and they guide them to accurate and reliable information in virtual environment [1-3].

Virtual hospitals provide various services for patients and health care providers. It is an internet-based virtual environment in which patients and health care providers such as physicians, nurses, and other professional could communicate with each other and share their information in a virtual environment [4,5]. To use the service, customers must register with their own username and password and give some medical records such as weight, past medical history, laboratory results, or medication. Then they can log in the web page of the virtual hospital and use the services without any time and place constraints. Moreover, health care providers can use this system for consultations with other specialists and they could have an access to several digital libraries and valid resources about medical databases, such as drug interactions [6].

These hospitals are also used for medical and nurse educations. Students can move virtually around the hospital; they can communicate with peers and patients by using text chat; they can examine the patient (e.g. for interpretation of chest sounds); order radiology and laboratory tests; review the results of tests (e.g. X-ray images); share his/her information with peers (e.g., ECG); prescribe some medicines; and write patient admission/discharge/handover sheet. Moreover, there are some graphic-rich online textbooks, digital library in the field of Atlas of the human brain and digital anatomist for all students [5,7,8].

The most strength of virtual hospitals is related to the possibility to access these hospitals around the worldwide without any time and place constraints. However, much emphasis could be placed on reliable information and adherence to data security and confidentiality issues in the virtual hospitals and patients' rights have to be considered carefully.

References

1. Markle S, Hasait S, Tschirley R, Kochy KA (2005) Distributed visualization environment as GUI for a virtual hospital. International Congress Series 1281: 200-205.

2. McMullan M (2006) Patients using the Internet to obtain health information: How this affects the patient-health professional relationship. Patient Educ Couns 63: 24-28.

3. Thanuskodi S (2010) Use of internet and electronic resources for medical science information: A case study. J Communication 1: 37-44.

4. Ghafouri Fard M, Hasankhani Hadi H (2015) Virtual hospital: A new approach in education and treatment. J Med Edu Dev 8: 47-57.

5. Honey MLL, Diener S, Connor K, Veltman M, Bodily D (2009) Teaching in virtual space: An interactive session demonstrating second life simulation for haemorrhage management. In same places, different spaces. Proceedings Ascilite Auckland.

6. Moghaddasi H, Kamkarhaghighi M (2015) Conceptual and practical evolution of the virtual hospital. RJMS 21: 1-11.

7. Allen J, Kentucky L (1999) Surgical internet at a glance: The virtual hospital. Am J Surg 178: 1.

8. Martin-Parra JI, Manuel-Palazuelos JC, Maestre JM, Gomez-Fleitas M, Del Moral I (2014) Changing the paradigm in health care education: Hospital virtual valdecilla. J Surg Educ 71: 142-146.