Health Databases in the Era of Information Technology: The Philippine Scene

Maria Minerva P. CALIMAG

OUTLINE

• State of National eHealth Strategy in the Philippines
  - The Philippine Health Information Exchange
• Current situation
• Target situation
• Next Steps

STATE OF HEALTH IT IN THE PHILIPPINES

• Last July 2013, the Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology and PhilHealth formed the National eHealth Governance Steering Committee to evaluate, direct, and monitor the use of information and communications technology in healthcare.

• In their first meeting October 2013, they approved the Philippine eHealth Strategic Framework and Plan 2014-2020

*1 This article is based on a presentation made at the Symposium “Health Database in an Information Society” held at the 29th CMAAO General Assembly and 50th Council Meeting, Manila, the Philippines, on September 24-26, 2014.

1 President, Philippine Medical Association, Quezon City, the Philippines (philmedas@yahoo.com).
**NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM GOALS**

- Achieve the Public Health MDGs
- Provide Financial Risk
- Interventions of Care
- Secure access to Quality Healthcare at facilities
- Improved Health Governance especially for the Poor and Vulnerable

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- Prior to the creation of the eHealth Steering Committee, there was no clarity on how major decisions on eHealth were made.
- There were no standards and no privacy guidelines.
- The various stakeholders were also at a loss as to how they can participate in the larger eHealth program.

**DIRECTION OF THE PHIE**

- New Patient
  - Recording of Patient’s Master/Demographic Data
  - Recording of Past Medical Histories
  - Taking of Vital Signs
  - Physician’s Orders
  - Observations, Assessment
  - Findings / Diagnosis
- Patient
- Health Facility 1
  - Recording of Patient’s Master/Demographic Data
  - Recording of Past Medical Histories are suspected
- Health Facility 2
  - Shared Health Information
  - Retrieve Patient’s Master/Demographic Data
  - …Past Medical Histories
  - Under a secured setup and environment

**ACTION: PRIVACY**

- The Data Privacy Act of 2012 explicitly prohibits sharing of personal information except with consent and/or public health emergencies.
- A National Health Data Privacy and Security Experts Group was created to draft the Privacy Guidelines. For public hearing this October.
- PMA is a participant of both the Standards and Privacy Experts Group.

**NATIONAL HEALTH ID**

- The country is in the middle of distribution of the Unified Multipurpose ID (UMID).
- The most expensive ID for all Filipinos is the PhilHealth ID.
- The DOH Administrative Order for Health Data Standards recommends the use of the PhilHealth ID as national health ID. It is now being deliberated by the Health Data Standards Experts Group.
HEALTH DATABASES IN THE ERA OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: THE PHILIPPINE SCENE

MAJOR HEALTH DATABASES

- Health and non-health (thesis, dissertations, grey literature on health in the Philippines)
  - www.elib.gov.ph
- More focused on health
  - www.HERDIN.ph

www.HERDIN.ph

Welcome to HERDIN
Health Research and Development Information System (HERDIS) database is the national health research repository of the Philippines.

eHEALTH DATABASES

- eHatid
- WOMBI – Watching Over Mothers and Babies
- AENDICUS – Anesthesia Database
- Cancer Registries – Philippine Cancer Society
- eReport – Drug Adverse Event Reports of the FDA

TARGET SITUATION

- The target situation is to allow various stakeholders to participate in the national eHealth program
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- The National eHealth Governance Steering Committee approved the Philippine Health Information Exchange as the framework for standardized communication between stakeholders in the health sector.

STANDARDS AND INTEROPERABILITY

NATIONAL eHEALTH CAPACITY ROADMAP

MERITS OF HEALTH IT

- Automation
- Efficiency
- Audit
- Patient safety
- Research

DEMERITS OF HEALTH IT

- Lack of capacity amongst healthcare and IT professionals
- Lack of human touch
- Additional expense with infrastructure investments
NEXT STEPS

- It is hoped that once the standards are established and made available on the Philippine Health Information Exchange, all electronic systems in the country can start accumulating health databases that are compatible and can contribute effectively to national health research while also keeping their patients’ information secure and private.

THANK YOU