Electronic Health Records: Needs, Requirements and Barriers for Adoption in Physiotherapy

Tailoring health information system to the individual is necessary to match different unmet support needs. Were investigated the perspectives of physiotherapists and patients on availability and use of ICT to support care delivery, features and performance expectancy of ICT for EHRs in physiotherapy, perceived benefits and barriers of adoption, behavioral intentions related electronic health records.

General Motivation and Objectives

With advances in information and communication technologies (ICT), dramatic changes have also been produced in physiotherapy provision. Taking into account the low adoption of the developed technologies the project team understood the importance for better theoretical model and methods for ICT design, which may fulfill the needs of physiotherapists and their patients. In the project EHR PHYSIO the perceived needs and barriers of physiotherapists and their patients for adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) in physiotherapy practice were investigated as well as tests on technology for EHRs for physiotherapy were carried out. Collaborated in this research engineers from Instituto de Telecomunicações, Instituto Superior Técnico from Lisbon, Faculdade de Engenharia de Porto, Instituto Politécnico de Setubal, informatics from ISCTE-IUL, physiologist from Instituto de Medicina Molecular, psychologists, and physiotherapists from Faculdade de Motricidade Humana, from Escola Superior de Saúde, Universidade Atlântica from Escola Superior de Tecnologia de Saúde, Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa and Associação Portuguesa de Fisioterapeutas.

Four objectives were proposed: i) systematic review of international knowledge and experience on physiotherapists and patients perspectives on EHRs; ii) co-design of physiotherapist-patient-designer framework of EHRs for physiotherapy; iii) survey of physiotherapists and patient’s needs related EHRs for physiotherapy; iv) developing and pilot testing of a system for EHRs for physiotherapy.

Challenge

Exploring the complexity of organizational and technical models of health information systems.

Designing instruments for requirements elicitation from physiotherapists, engineers, informatics and patients related with EHRs for physiotherapy.

Recognizing the obstacles for ICT technologies implementation and adoption in physiotherapy and design solutions to overcome them.

Designing technologies for motor activity monitoring relevant for physiotherapists and patients needs.

Project webpage: https://www.iit.pt/Projects/index/1792

Fig. 1 Organizational and technical model of Electronic Health Records for Physiotherapy

Fig. 2 Information and Communication Technologies for Electronic Health Records for Physiotherapy

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