



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

CHALLENGES AND IMPACT OF THE TRANSITION FROM PAPER-BASED TO ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS IN THE VOLTA REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Category:

New technologies in health and digitalisation of the health system

Authors:

Amati Edinam Precious

Objectives:

This study assessed the challenges and impact of transitioning from paper-based to electronic health records at the Volta Regional Hospital.

Method:

A cross-sectional study design was employed, with healthcare providers at the hospital serving as the study population. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select participants, and a sample size was calculated using the Cochrane formula. Data collection was conducted using a self-administered questionnaire developed on Kobo collect, and the analysis was performed using Stata version 17. Descriptive statistics such as mean, median, and frequencies were used to describe the variables.

Results:

Among the 239 participants, 53.9% were female, with a mean age of 31.23 years and work experience of 10 years. Most respondents were nurses (46.8%) and health information officers (9.6%). Key challenges with paper-based records included time wastage (67%) and difficulty retrieving lost data (64%). Following the implementation of EHR systems, participants reported improvements in healthcare delivery and ease of retrieving patient data. Notable advantages of EHRs included enhanced continuity of care, reduced patient waiting times, and easier access to medical history. However, limitations such as faulty computers and difficulties uploading images were identified.

Conclusion:

The transition to EHRs has been largely successful, with data management and patient care improvements. However, addressing technical issues, enhancing ICT infrastructure, and providing adequate training are essential to maximize the benefits of EHRs.

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