

Transcontinental EHR : Myth or Reality in Asia

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Healthcare worldwide is in a state of constant change . The multitude of changes require creative solutions that range from restructuring healthcare to provide better services to the effective use of information technology. E-health promises a set of goals such as efficiency improvement , enhancing quality , evidence based practice , empowerment of patients , extending the scope of healthcare . The digital divide currently runs between rural vs. urban populations , rich vs. poor , young vs. old , male vs. female people and between neglected/rare vs. common diseases. The EHR system covers a cradle to grave concept and longitudinal health record and is normally subdivided into components and modules which are varied to use in different countries worldwide . The patient safety , patient privacy , patient empowerment , quality improvement , population health, primary care, and chronic disease management capabilities , ICT diffusion and infrastructure , system implementation and adoption , resource allocation , cost effectiveness, ethics , equity of access , social / cultural , political will and governance are crucial issues which should be considered when an EHR system comes from the development stage into real world practice . Improved dissemination of public health information , mobile healthcare , enabled remote consultation , facilitated collaboration and cooperation during disasters and health issues crisis , supported more effective health research and education , strengthened the ability to monitor the incidence of public health threats and respond in a more and effective manner , improved the efficiency of administrative systems in health care facilities are all desirable

outcomes of wide scale EHR systems implementation which bring transparency of health care amongst the population in which the system is being implemented . Asia is settled by half of the world population and is host of lots of disasters , public health issues crisis , epidemics which make great threats against health of nations itself in this continent and the globe . Asia has a robust background in ICT industry and runs big technology dependent innovations world wide through its nations and by the way , there are range of developing and developed countries in it , so the questions are " can these advancements in technologies afford a transcontinental EHR in Asia ? " and " can this EHR be a dazzling but realistic model for rest of the world ? " .We focus to consider different factors throughout this continent such as ICT diffusion , health indicators , economy , socio-technical issues , political issues , etc and finally suggest a set of recommendations to make this concept a reality in future .