

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: 30 January 2019

Accepted: 21 May 2019

Online:

DOI 10.5001/omj.2020.85

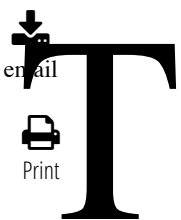
Keywords:

Perception, Electronic Health Records, Quality of Health Care, Medical Informatics.

ABSTRACT

Electronic health and medical records are widely adopted in many healthcare settings worldwide to improve the quality of care. Users' perception is a significant factor influencing the successful implementation and use of e-health technologies. This systematic review aimed to identify factors influencing the perceptions of healthcare professionals towards the adoption and use of electronic health and medical record systems to improve the quality of healthcare services in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. We identified primary studies evaluating healthcare professionals' perception towards electronic health records and/or electronic medical records in the Gulf region. Seven electronic databases, including Medline, CINAHL, Informit Health Collection, Science Direct, ProQuest, PubMed, and Scopus were used to search for the relevant articles published between January 2007 and December 2016. Thirteen articles met the inclusion criteria and were included in this systematic review. Both individual and system-related factors were found to positively or negatively influence healthcare providers' perceptions towards the systems. Understanding the impact of healthcare professionals' perception of health information technology is important for policymakers involved in the implementation programs to ensure their success. Future studies should evaluate other individual characteristics such as age, gender, and profession of the healthcare providers on their perceptions towards e-health technologies.

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The implementation of health information technology (HIT) has been associated with improved quality of healthcare services, increased efficiency, and reduced costs of healthcare as well as provider satisfaction.^{1,2} Electronic medical records (EMRs) and electronic health records (EHRs) are the most common e-health technologies used in many healthcare settings today.³ Lu and colleagues noted that these computer-based record systems help healthcare professionals to manage patients' health information and improve care.⁴ The healthcare outcomes of EHR/EMR are mainly attributed to the systems' enormous benefits, including but not limited to the elimination of redundant paper-based processes,^{5,6} elimination of time-consuming procedures in recording and retrieving patient data,⁷ easy access to patient information,⁸ and improved communication between the multidisciplinary teams.^{9,10} Therefore, electronic health information systems (HISs) are crucial for the sustainability of healthcare organizations as the provision of high-quality care services likely to attract more clients resulting in increased profitability and growth.¹¹

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As the adoption of EHR/EMR systems is fast gaining pace in many healthcare settings worldwide, those in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are no exception.¹¹ The



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