



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Electronic Health Record for South Africa

eHR.ZA

PEPFAR HMIS 14-16 MAY 2008

Purpose

To provide a strategic approach on the development of an Electronic Health Record for South Africa

BACKGROUND

- NHC/MIS 2002 WORKSHOP
 - LABORATORY SYSTEM WORKING GROUP
 - HIS EVALUATION WORKING GROUP
 - ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD WORKING GROUP
- SEPTEMBER 2003 NATIONAL EHR WORKSHOP (PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTOR)
- 10 YEAR REVIEW HIGHLIGHTED THE CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING THE UNIFORM PATIENT SYSTEM
 - EHR PRIORITY 2005-2009

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP

- OUTCOME

- COMMON APPROACH AND CONSENSUS
- AGREED TO HAVE NATIONAL EHR THAN PROVINCIAL EHR
- WORKSHOP REPORT FORMED THE BASIS OF THE FRAMEWORK

ISSUES ADDRESSED

- CONTENT
- ACCESSIBILITY
- STANDARDS
- SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY
- LEGISLATION
- ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS
- HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
- IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE
- PHASES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Definition of an EHR

- An Electronic Health Record is defined for this project as a longitudinal collection of personal health information of a single individual, entered or accepted by health care providers and stored electronically. Access to the record must be authorised by the provider and the patient.

Goals

- To integrate health record systems in the country by bringing together all the different health information systems facilitating access to health records within a province and across provinces.
- To develop a population health care base.
- To improve administration at both national and provincial level.
- To improve the efficiency of health service delivery.
- To enable national monitoring and evaluation of health trends.

Objectives

- Integrate different episodes into individual longitudinal records
- Track patients for continuing health care
- Reduce medical errors
- Provide easy access to records
- Improve referral system
- Monitor health care behaviours
- Promote transparency and efficiency
- Improve surveillance methods

Scope

The project seeks to take a cost effective incremental approach integrating the existing provincial information systems, allowing access to healthcare records within provinces, across provinces and national in an output based performance system.

Approach

- Part I: Integration of the existing systems
- Part II: Develop the intelligent system to search existing data
- Part III: A fully functional eHR.ZA accessible across provinces, with a governance structure for standards

Technical Framework

- A standards based platform that will integrate the existing Provincial Health Information Systems
- Core for a comprehensive EHR (both current/ future ; Private/ Public standards)
- Standard based architecture and information model
- Clinical records and Document Management capability in a secure environment

Current Status regarding HIS

- Different health information systems in provinces with different database systems
- Different levels of sophistication and maturity in implementation

NHC/MIS

- ◆ Medicom: KZN, Gauteng, Limpopo
- ◆ Nootropics: Northern Cape
- ◆ Clinicom: Western Cape
- ◆ Meditech: KZN, Free State
- ◆ Unicare: Western Cape, Limpopo, Eastern Cape
- ◆ PAAB: GP, MP, NW, KZN
- ◆ PADS: Free State

Reference Documents

- EHR Strategic Framework
- EHR Standards

Procurement Process

- **RFI : 2005**
- **EHR Workshop held on 27-28 March 2006**
- **Outputs: EHR Brief and Draft Technical Specifications**
- **RFP published through SITA: 2006**
- **Bid Evaluation**
- **Award**

Preparations for EHR

- EHR Workshops have been conducted by an Intel expert with global experience, in Gauteng, Western Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo
- The objective of these workshops the uptake of Electronic Health Records targeting clinicians.

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- Privacy and security of paper based records
- Willingness to pay for electronic records
- 51% of respondents repeat medical history
- 63% believe EMR will improve quality of health care in South Africa
- Lengthy waiting time for repeat medication

Conclusion

- Political will
- Clinicians
- Public
- Taking key global learning and experiences