

Patient Medical Information Sharing across Health Facilities

ICED21- Africa Design Workshop Abstract by

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To provide quality service in health industry, reliable and timely information is a critical resource. The healthcare delivery is being transformed by the advances in technology with e-health systems being implemented and seen as important enablers for support of health across the world. The implementation of e- health systems and other electronic medical systems enable easy documentation of the interaction between health practitioners and patients. Despite enormous benefits that flow from the documented records, there are still challenges that form barriers to an effective healthcare system. Many health facilities use independent in-house systems with no proper medium of sharing patient's information with other institution when necessary. This research looks at the status of health systems in Kenya exploring possible ways that are used to share patients' data across health facilities when referrals occur. The research seems to reveal that there is still a gap in platforms that enables effective sharing of data across health institutions when there is referral of patient as mostly data is shared manually using paper or patients notes. This work investigates the possibility of a platform that stores information of a patient. When there is referral, the information stored in the system will be retrieved and used by the health workers. A platform can be implemented to store the information and an application programming interface will be built to permit independent health systems to interact with the system by retrieving and updating patients' data relating to referrals.