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Electronic Healthcare Records (EHR)

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Abstract: An Electronic Healthcare Record (EHR) is the record of patients saved in an electronic device, which includes their data like medications .problems, demographics and the progress in their health. EHRs can include information such as: Diagnoses, Medications, Tests, Allergies, Immunizations, Treatment plans, Radiology images, and Laboratory results.

The Standard protocol of communication used by Electronic Health Record is HL7. EHRs are designed to be patient-centered and provide immediate and secure information to authorized users. They can be shared with authorized networks so other healthcare professionals can access the data.

The benefits of EHRs or the ability to exchange health information electronically is to provide higher quality and safer care for patients while creating tangible enhancements for the organization by providing accurate, up-to-date, quick, secure and complete information about patients for more coordinated, efficient care, thereby reducing errors. EHRs can use algorithms to alert healthcare professionals to potential concerns, such as allergies and drug interactions. EHRs can also be combined with voice recognition technology to help clinicians enter patient data hands-free, which can reduce errors and speed up the information recording process.

Electronic Healthcare Record faces some challenges like expensive software packages, system security, patient confidentiality and future regulations given by the government. EHR implementation can also be a daunting task with high failure rates. However, with a multidisciplinary approach and strategic planning, it's possible to successfully transition from paper records to an EHR system. The existing features of electronic healthcare record are administrative functions, computerized order entry, lab systems, radiology systems, pharmacy systems and clinical documentation. Bar coding, radio-frequency identification, and speech recognition are some future technologies of Electronic Healthcare Records.

Keywords: Electronic Healthcare Records, Potential concerns, Radiology images ,Bar coding, tangible enhancements

