A Report

Webinar on Electronic Medical Records (EMR)

Date: 22 May, 2019
Time: 16:00 – 17:00 hrs

Context

Electronic medical record (EMR) systems, defined as "an electronic record of health-related information on an individual that can be created, gathered, managed, and consulted by authorized clinicians and staff within one health care organization," have the potential to provide substantial benefits to physicians, clinic practices, and health care organizations. These systems can facilitate workflow and improve the quality of patient care and patient safety.
Introduction:

Electronic medical record (EMR) systems, defined as "an electronic record of health-related information on an individual that can be created, gathered, managed, and consulted by authorized clinicians and staff within one health care organization," have the potential to provide substantial benefits to physicians, clinic practices, and health care organizations. These systems can facilitate workflow and improve the quality of patient care and patient safety.

Keeping the importance of a vital aspect in patient care, VISION 2020 INDIA conducted a one hour webinar session on 22 May 2019 from 16:00 – 17:00 hrs.

Objective of the webinar:

- Build member hospitals’ capacity by offering correct and comprehensive knowledge regarding importance of Electronic medical records
- Orienting member hospitals on – steps involved in converting from Paper based record systems to Electronic medical records, Technical features, Integration with various equipment’s, Hospital managements systems, MIS reports, Data Analytics, Medical Records Auditing, NABH guidelines in EMR, EMR standards, e-health, Disaster management, etc.

Participation:

Encouraging participation observed in the webinar. Against the total of 78 registrations 43 participated. This programme is intended for Trustees, CEOs, Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Administrators, Nurses and Quality Managers.

Resource person

Dr. R R Sudhir,
Head-Dept of Preventive Ophthalmology
Senior consultant Cornea and Refractive services
Head of EMR development and Implementation
Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai
Programme:

The session started with a welcome address by Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA. He also set the objectives of the webinar and introduced Dr RR Sudhir, the resource person.

Further, Dr RR Sudhir started the session with introduction to EMR and its need. He presented the contents of medical records which have multiple sections for which if one maintains a paper based record, the file will become very thick, complex and finding the records will be difficult and time taking. This will also take a huge place for storage which will not be cost effective. Bad hand writing in paper based records is a major challenge and can lead to medical errors.

Dr Sudhir threw light on levels of Electronic Health Care Record (EHCR) which is basically a clinical knowledge management which has various components. Now a day in health care, practice management is not based on opinion, it is based on evidence based medicine for which we need a huge amount of data which helps in better business intelligence, better data warehousing and better data reporting.

He explained about a paperless hospital which have to have 3 major components, EMR, Hospital Management System (HMS) and Diagnostic modalities out of which HMS is considered as a backbone and if it is linked to EMR, information of patients directly goes to the clinicians. Thus complete integration of these components makes the hospital completely paperless.

He further shared a case study of Sankara Nethralaya (SN) on how the hospital has got benefitted after having EMR. EMR played a vital role in cost and time saving. Even though it is a large initial investment but true saving occurs after 2-3 years and then one start enjoying the cost benefit of it. In 1st year with EMR, Shankar Nethralaya was able to save INR 69 lakhs. It also helps to monitor and reduce patient waiting time which is one of the major challenges for many hospitals. He shared few findings from the studies done by SN to explain how it works in time management. He explained about the deployment of EMR and its backup architecture which is very important.

Dr Sudhir explained the process under EMR through photos and videos to make it more understandable and also informed that the patients can be informed about their waiting time for transparency. Surgical schedules can be easily found. As patient is the owner of the entire medical record, EMR must have a patient portal where a patient can access their record and without this section EMR may not be approved. EMR is also linked with the store which shows the availability of lenses. Integration with equipments is very important aspect of EMR.

He shared the advantages of EMR. Data mining is one of the most important aspects. Various criteria can be used for data mining in very less time. Complete data of patient can be extracted easily to see pre and post operative results. EMR can also be used in camps. He explained on when to purchase the EMR and how to choose the EMR.
EMR needs a project management team which has to be lead by champion physician and the champion users from each department. Planning is must, else will lead to failure. Dr Sudhir also shared the challenges in its adoption and how to overcome from these challenges.

Subsequent to his presentation, delegates asked their questions which were answered by Dr Sudhir.

Dr Phanindra Babu Nukella wrapped up the webinar with vote of thanks.

**Webinar recording:**

The entire webinar was recorded. Please refer to the link given into the email to download the entire recording of the webinar: [https://vimeo.com/337971887](https://vimeo.com/337971887)

Kindly note that this link will be active only for 7 days, starting from 24th May.

**Gratitude:**

- **VISION 2020 INIDIA** is sincerely thankful to Dr RR Sudhir for his valuable time and kind support for the cause.
- Sincere thanks to Cybersight/ Orbis India team, and Mr Gangadhar from Cybersight, Australia for their support in conducting the webinar through Cybersight platform
- Our sincere thanks to all the delegates, participated in the webinar and thanks for their encouraging response
- We are extremely thankful to each and every one who supported us to make this webinar a grand success