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Introduction

Appropriate information and Health Information Systems (HIS) are seen as crucial to strengthen the health system in developing countries [1] and in pursuing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [2]. On the ground, however, HIS and especially hospital information systems development in developing countries has proven difficult due to organisational complexity [3], fragmented and

Hospital in 1921, and it was nally opened on 9th

With the almost completion of the national fibre optic project, these teaching/regional hospitals will have no excuse as to why they have not implemented EHR system.

Despite the known importance of EHR, some major hospitals in Ghana are yet to fully benefit from these.

The challenges of implementing EHR in Ghanaian hospitals will be a daunting one. A lot of effort will have to be put in the restructuring and reorganisation of workflows to effectively implement a successful EHR. Information infrastructures in Ghanaian hospitals are still weak and data collection and management is a serious challenge yet to be surmounted. Some of the immediate challenges of successful EHR implementation in Ghanaian hospitals will be human resource and the funds to procure and maintain hardware; sustainability of such system will be another issue.

Conclusion

The potential of EHR system to transform medical care practice has been recognized over the past decades to enhance health care delivery and facilitates decision making process. Subsequently, EHR and other clinical decision support system tools are currently used in both primary and secondary health care facilities in most developed nations. However, implementing an EHR system or any HIS in a clinical practice is a daunting task. It requires good planning, strong management and physician leadership and supportive staff. The most immediate benefits of EHR system include accurate medication lists, legible notes and prescriptions, immediately available charts, decreased chart pulls, lower transcription costs, medical errors reduction and improve quality care and standard in patient safety. Unfortunately most countries in sub Saharan Africa and other poor nations lack the experts, fund and ICT infrastructure necessary for the implementation of such modern health care technology to ensure continuity of care.

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