The History of Health Information Management

EARLY 1600s

Hints of Standardization

Physicians began recommending that basic health information be recorded such as patient name, complaint, and date seen.

1928

Health Information Management

The American College of Surgeons (ACOS) took steps to standardize the growing number of medical records. ACOS established the organization now known as the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

1965

Precursor to SNOMED

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) developed what we now know as Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED) to standardize the language of pathology.

1969

Uniform Minimum Data Sets

The concept of "uniform minimum data sets" was promoted by industry leaders to improve coordination among health information systems.

1971

Computerized Systems

In partnership with Lockheed, the world's first computer-aided medical information system is installed at El Camino Hospital.

1975

Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs)

Diagnosis related groups (DRGs) were first developed at Yale University for the purpose of grouping together patients with similar treatments and conditions for comparative studies—and as an attempt to standardize reimbursement rates. As network solutions were developed, IT departments were able to use standardized DRG codes to connect financial and clinical systems for limited functions.

1980s & 1990s

Growing Interoperability

The introduction of the master patient index (MPI) in the 1980s along with other technologies that enabled interoperability among disparate systems laid the groundwork for initiatives such as the Indiana Network for Patient Care (INPC), the foundation for today's Indiana Health Information Exchange.

2004

Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

In his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush called for computerized health records, kicking off the electronic health record (EHR) revolution.

2009

Meaningful Use

Adoption of EHRs grew significantly with the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which initiated programs that promoted EHRs as the means to achieving Meaningful Use objectives.

2010

Value-Based Care

The emergence of the value-based care concept as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) served to drive increased focus on improving patient outcomes and new delivery models such as accountable care organizations (ACOs). In turn, the challenges of sharing, aggregating and harmonizing data across disparate healthcare systems were magnified as organizations sought ways to produce supporting data.

2017

EHR Buy-In

As of 2015, 96% of hospitals and 87% of office-based physician practices reported using EHRs. Additionally, the widespread adoption of cloud computing over the past decade supported expanded networks that went beyond specific locations to tie all entities in a health system or Health Information Exchange (HIE) together.

THE FUTURE

The Data-Inspired Future of Healthcare

Healthcare data will continue to come from a myriad of new sources including the Internet of Things, social media feeds, cloud apps, wearables, and those yet to be discovered. There is more need than ever for integration and data management platforms that promote system interoperability, data consolidation, and insight mining to help healthcare organizations prepare for their data-inspired and value-based futures.

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