

News relevant to aspects of EEPD and Electronic Perinatal Individual Patient Records

Bold = My emphasis. *Italic = R Fawdry comments*

October 2007

Electronic health records don't improve patient care quality.

A study in the USA has shown that electronic health records (EHRs) do not necessarily improve the quality of patient care. Surveying more than 1.8 billion "ambulatory visits" to physician practices, researchers found that EHRs were used in around 18% of cases. However, there was almost no link between EHR use and the quality of patient care. Assessed against 17 quality indicators, only 2 were improved (avoiding benzodiazepine prescribing to patients with depression and urinalysis testing during general medical examinations) and 1 was worse (statin prescribing to patients with hyperlipidaemia).

The authors warn of a number of caveats to their research — it was not clear, for example, what proportion of EHR systems included any clinical decision support. However, they argue that the introduction of EHRs is not, on its own, sufficient to improve the quality of healthcare.

Linder JA et al, Electronic Health Record Use and the Quality of Ambulatory Care in the United States, Arch Intern Med 167(13):1400—5 (2007) As reported in United Kingdom Caserbook (Medical Protection Society) Vol 15. No 3. Sept 07

Feb 2007

Present approach to IT in the NHS isn't working!

"We are trying to run an enormous programme with the techniques that we are familiar with for running small projects. **It isn't working. And it isn't going to work**" (Andrew Rollerson" Health Care Consultancy Practice Lead at Fujitsu-Siemens for the £869 million NHS-IT contract for South of England as reported in Hospital Doctor)

I couldn't agree more, it certainly matches my experience; hence my talk of a Berlin Wall or Chasm between worthwhile maternity computing and the almost religious beliefs of those who control CfH/NPfiT. Worth entering his name on Google to see in the IT press what frantic opposition he seems to be facing from CfH / NPfiT - and what support he is being given by other IT experts. I just hope he doesn't get sacked for telling the truth. It certainly matches my 28 years experience; hence my talk of a Berlin Wall or Chasm between worthwhile maternity computing and the almost religious beliefs of those who control CfH/NPfiT. I am trying, so far without success, to find out how to contact him personally.

November 2007

Foolproof Medical Records impossible

The man in charge of setting up the country's biggest medical records database (Richard Jeavons,) has said that he does not believe it is possible to make such systems foolproof. (Independent. 22 Nov 07)