Editorial

National Health Information Network (NHIN) is the main target for medical informatics

As we know, medical informatics comprises two general domains: health information system (HIS); and electronic health record (EHR). Medical informatics deals with production and development of IT-based health information systems as they have interoperability with the other related systems in national or international health information networks; and from conceptual perspectives comprises computer; information; and medical sciences.

Indeed, NHIN is the infrastructure of integrated health system as an integrated, interoperable, and distributed set of health information systems in a country with the capability of linkage to the other NHINs in the world.

NHIN is a comprehensible knowledge-based network of networks that will securely connect consumers, providers and others who have, or use health related data and services while protecting the confidentiality of health information.

By means of NHIN, the Department of Health (DoH) can totally and precisely monitor all nationwide medical issues to detect and prevent any problem that could decrease people's or community's health level.

In fact, a real electronic health record (EHR) can develop just by means of NHIN.

As a nut shell, development of NHIN must be a major policy of DoH in IRAN; and Iranian specialists of medical informatics are responsible for designing and implementing such a network.

They have to think internationally and act nationally, since EHR as a primary output of NHIN, has a universal or global meaning which could be transferred to other NHINs as data.

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