

Responding to Ethical Challenges in the Storage, Transmission and Application of Health Information and Communication Technology

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Innovations in Healthcare



Ethical Challenge

*Photo from The Medical City Official Website

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

DATA MINING

SYSTEM FAILURE

BUSINESS DECISIONS

RIGHTS

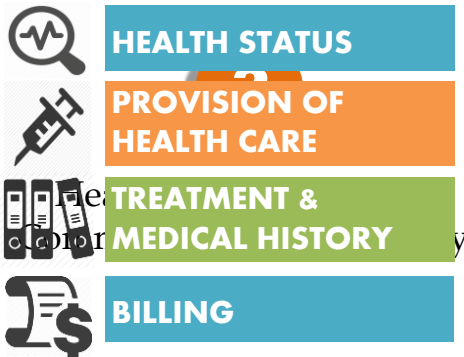
WRONGS

OBTAINING, SAFEGUARDING

TRANSFERRING AND CARRYING OVER

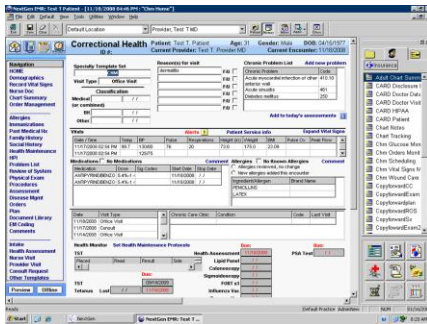
UTILIZING

Storage, Transmission, Application



Communication Technology

Electronic Health Records



* Image from: The Office of Health Affairs, CHS, GDRP, China



What are the ethical challenges in the storage, transmission and application of health information?

What are some ethical challenges in the storage, transmission and application of health information?

- Patient ownership of information
- Utility of patient data
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Cyber-medicine
- System failures and loss of data
- Hold Harmless Clause

PATIENT OWNERSHIP

Economic vs Personal

Professional vs Patient

UTILITY OF PATIENT DATA

Clinical Use

Research & Data Mining

Marketing & Sales

PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY

Access to this information must be controlled because disclosure can harm us. It may cause social embarrassment or prejudice, or affect our insurability, or limit our ability to get and hold a job.

- Dr. Thomas C. Rindfleish

CYBER-MEDICINE

"The physician mostly deals with the patient in a technologically mediated manner"

SYSTEM FAILURES, LOSS OF DATA AND DATA SECURITY

Power outages

Data theft

Bugs

HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE

"if any harm comes to anyone because of a system problem or a possible system leak, the buyer and healthcare provider will hold the manufacturer harmless"

Are these principles enough?

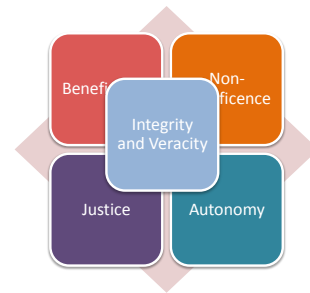
Is it possible to make use of the principles in providing real, practical guidance?

How can broad, abstract principles provide assistance with day-to-day details of clinical life?



How do we respond to these challenges?

Four Principles of Ethics



- Why is there an ethical problem? What are the ethical issues?
- What must we do? What are our options?
- What is the ethically acceptable option? Why?
- Is the value of integrity being upheld in the choice?
- Who are the stakeholders?
- Are we compromising the welfare of the patient?

While there is need for research, the subject's welfare must always take precedence over the interests of science and society.

6th principle of the 2008 Declaration of Helsinki

*A physician shall act
in the patient's best
interest when
providing medical
care.*

International Code of Medical Ethics

Thank you.