

Shared Electronic Patient Record Access for Community Pharmacists

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Keywords

Shared Electronic Patient Record; Community pharmacists; Electronic Health Record; Summary Care Record.

Introduction and Aims

A shared electronic patient record (shared EPR) is one of the proposed core components of the Electronic Health Record for Ireland. In England, a shared EPR called the Summary Care Record is already available, with access now extended to community pharmacists.

The aims of this research were:

- Review existing evidence from which a conceptual framework was developed to support the development of shared EPRs.
- Survey community pharmacists in England and Ireland about their views on shared EPRs. In doing so, strive to learn from community pharmacists in England about their experience of Summary Care Record and provide recommendations for the design, use and implementation of a shared EPR for Ireland, particularly as it applies to community pharmacy.

Results

Results from the questionnaires showed that community pharmacists in Ireland would like access to more information about patients, particularly in relation to medication history, allergies, diagnoses and rationale for therapy changes. Community pharmacists in England report that access to additional information through Summary Care Records is improving a number of areas of practice, with a greater effect reported among those using the system frequently. Community pharmacists in Ireland and England indicate a strong willingness to share information from their systems with other pharmacists and doctors.

Discussion & Conclusion

This research demonstrates that a clear need exists for shared EPR access for community pharmacists. The design of shared EPRs must consider the user interface and experience, content of the record and access security. Implementation of shared EPRs is a large-scale project requiring sociotechnical change and should ensure careful planning, with appropriate consideration given to training, evaluation and impact on role.