



Abstract I

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Evolving a scholarly journal for health records in Nigeria: issues and prospects

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Dear Editor.

Background/Objectives: Research is the systematic and rigorous process of inquiry, which aims to describe phenomenon and to develop and test explanatory concepts and theories. Health records professionals have obligations to manage patients' health records used in patients' care management, health services research and others. In addition to their management of health records, they participate in the conduct of researches by bringing in their skills, expertise, and knowledge of the importance and limitations of data quality. This is necessary to improve the validity and reliability of the evidence produced to improve public health. However, unlike their colleagues in developed nations, Nigerian health records professionals have not optimally explore the opportunities inherent in research. This study sought to relate challenges encountered during editorial functions that saw to the emergence of maiden edition of the International Journal of Health Records & Information Management (IJHRIM).

Methods/Design: A descriptive approach to give accounts of our experience as pioneer editors of IJHRIM.

Results: Thirty two full manuscripts and 9 abstracts were received. Of the 32 manuscripts, 14 (43.7%) came in 2016 and 13 (40.6%) were recommended for publication. Health records professionals submitted 31 (96.9%) of the manuscripts and they were 18 (72.0%) of the 25 reviewers engaged. Overall, the 13 published works include 1 editorial, 1 review article, 5 research articles, 3 perspectives and 3 letters to the editor. The study also discovered that many contributors require intensive training in research.

Conclusion: The emergence of a scholarly journal for health records in Nigeria, has carved for health records professionals, a niche to showcase their research and writing skills and to further discover their hidden treasury in academic parlance. To effectively attain their scholarly roles; there is a need to strengthen the research content of the continuing professional development education for the professionals.

Keywords: Health Records; Health Records Professionals; Scholarly Journal; International Journal of Health Records & Information Management; Scholarly Roles; Nigeria



Appointment adherence and follow up among patients with diabetes at Federal Medical Centre Bida, Nigeria

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Background/Objectives:

Appointment system is an arrangement or system of booking a patient for specific time to be seen in hospital outpatient clinic for clinical consultation. To establish successful appointment system, there must be collaboration among healthcare providers.

Diabetes is a challenging disease to manage and its care regimen is complex. Patients with good diabetes self-care behaviour can attain excellent glycaemia control. Successful control of diabetes mellitus requires lifelong adherence to multiple self-management activities in close collaboration with healthcare professionals. This study aimed at determining the level of appointment adherence and follow-up among patients with diabetes at Federal Medical Centre, Bida.

Methods/Design:

This is cross-sectional study that deployed a 22-item structured questionnaire on 374 patients-participants. Data analysis was carried out using simple percentage and chi-square was computed to compare the relationship between documented appointment date and adherence to appointment.

Results:

The majority (370, 99.0%) of participants reported that they always ensure their next appointment is recorded before leaving the hospital. Many (259, 69.0%) of them remember their appointment because it was documented on their hand reference card, while few (43, 12.0%) were reminded by family members. Most (362 97.0%) of them argued that they make sure they respect the appointment date as documented. One fifth (78, 20.9%) of participants admitted that good appointment system if properly maintained, minimizes the waiting time.

Conclusion:

Appropriate documentation of follow-up details in the patient's hand reference card helps to remind patients of their appointment to access care. Continuing advocacy on the need to observe and honour appointment system is highly recommended among consumers and providers alike.

Keywords: Appointment System; Diabetes Mellitus; Appointment Adherence; Health Records; Data Quality; Nigeria



Knowledge and awareness of HIV counseling and testing among clinical students of University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin, Nigeria

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Background/Objectives:

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is a major public health problem in the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Nigeria has been said to have the second highest number of people living with HIV in the world. Prevalence of HIV/AIDS is growing rapidly among the teeming youth and young adults. Hence, the need to reduce the incidence in Nigeria is paramount. HIV Testing Services (HTS) provide a gateway to HIV prevention, treatment and care services. Therefore, this study aimed at testing the knowledge and awareness of HIV testing and counseling among clinical students of University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital.

Methods/Design:

This is a descriptive study using a 12-item structured questionnaire to determine the knowledge and awareness of randomly selected 300 clinical students of UITH Ilorin. Data analysis was done using frequency distribution.

Results:

It was revealed that all (100%) possess knowledge of HIV/AIDS and HCT, 136 (45.3%) of participants have undergone HCT screening before and less than half (41%) of them know their HIV status. A good number (54.3%) of participants were in knowing their HIV status and a greater portion (60.7%) would like to encourage other to do the same.

Conclusion:

Clinical students at Ilorin Medical School possess adequate knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS and HCT. Despite their knowledge, awareness and intentions, there is need for more advocacies among them in order to embrace HCT in order to widen the rate of those who know their status.

Keywords: HIV Testing; AIDS Scourge; Counselling; Adherence; Nigeria



Generating research ideas

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Background/Objectives:

The strict definition of scientific research is performing a methodical study in order to prove a hypothesis or answer a specific question. Finding a definitive answer is the central goal of any experimental process.

Methods/Design:

Review of a material on the topic – “Generating research ideas”.

Results:

Criteria for good research idea include: keeping your eyes open for interesting clinical cases, Reading journal articles on subjects of interest, keeping a list/journal of all potential research ideas, becoming familiar with the ongoing research at your institution and brainstorming with peers in a specific discipline; becoming an active reader and listener: ask yourself the following questions: from where did the author seem to draw the ideas? what exactly was accomplished by this piece of work? how does it seem to relate to other work in the field? what would be the reasonable next step to build upon this work? Conclusion:

Conclusion:

It is possible to spend almost all of your time in literature review and seminars. The truth of the matter is that nothing will come of it unless you are an active reader and listener. Active listening and reading must be viewed as “continuing education” that will involve you for the rest of your career. Don't fool yourself into thinking it must be finished before you can begin research.

Keywords: Research Idea; Research Methods; Health Services Research; Health Records Professionals; Scholarship Roles; Nigeria



Regulatory provision, enforcement and Nigerian health records and information management practitioners

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Background/Objectives:

The aim of the paper is to ascertain the regulatory provisions existing to guide the practices of health records and information management professionals.

Methods/Design:

The paper explored the Federal Government Act 39 of 1989 to identify the statutory authority of Health Records Officer Registration Board of Nigeria (the Board), regarding registration, maintenance of register of all members, approval of training schools, professional discipline, among others.

Results:

The work discovered the enforcement strategies which the Board could employ to ensure compliance such as the use of investigative panel, disciplinary committee and use of the court. The paper x-rayed the challenges associated with enforcement of regulatory provisions.

Conclusion:

The work recommends that all health records stakeholders should play their individual roles in enforcing regulatory provisions of the Board. This is to entrench best practices in the profession and enhance healthcare data management for an improved healthcare services delivery.

Keywords: Professional Regulations; Health Records Standards; Enforcement; Best Practice; Health Records Board; Nigeria



Knowledge, attitude and practice of confidentiality of patients' health information among healthcare professionals in Irepo Local Government, Kishi, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Background/Objectives:

Confidentiality is limiting health information to those to who are necessary. Confidentiality is the basis of medical ethics. This research work was carried out to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of confidentiality of patients' health information among healthcare professionals in Irepo Local Government, Kishi, Nigeria.

Methods/Design:

The study adopted 19-point semi-structured questionnaire was self-administered on all 121 healthcare professionals in Kishi. SPSS 17.0 version was used to analyze the data.

Results:

Virtually all the healthcare professionals (97.3%) have heard about confidentiality while the same said confidentiality is important as clinical care. Discussing patient's health condition with people was detested among participants. The workplace where the majority (93.6%) came from, maintained confidentiality while service of untrained interpreters was said to be detrimental to patient care management. All private practitioners (100%) sought consent before treatment and most of public practitioners (83.8%) reported to be doing same. Chi-square test revealed that there is no significant relationship between attitude of healthcare providers and confidentiality.

Conclusion:

Most healthcare professionals in Kishi LGA possess knowledge on confidentiality of patients' health information, which reflected in their attitude to and practice of it. Training and retraining programmes, secrecy of patients' health information, good health records practice and introduction of physical, virtual and digital security system are recommend to improve confidentiality.

Keywords: Patients' Health Records; Medical Confidentiality; Medical Ethics; Research Ethics; Privacy; Professional Standards; Best Practice; Nigeria



Mandatory continuing professional development – a tool for rebuilding confidence in the Nigerian healthcare system, imperative to health records practitioners

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Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) is desiderata for every profession as means of sustaining and improving the knowledge base of her members. The world is dynamic, so also is every profession, as such, to remain relevant, there must be Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The imperatives of CPD have made it a mandatory provision in every instrument establishing any profession as a regulated practice. This paper seeks to adumbrate on the importance of CPD for every practitioner, which is why every professional regulatory bodies makes CPD Mandatory, hence we often talk of MCPD. The paper also examines the level of compliance to this legal requirement by the Health Records Practitioners, efforts by stakeholders, suggestions for improvement and plans for consolidation.

Keywords: Continuing Professional Development; Health Records Professionals; Professional Regulation; Practice; Nigeria



Evaluation of information and communication technologies (ICTs) use in healthcare system

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Manually operated healthcare facility are fast changing to modern healthcare setting in which information and communication technology (ICT) hold sway for fast, accurate and efficient services delivery. Technologies form the backbone of the services to prevent, diagnose and treat illness and diseases. ICT helps in bringing distances and providing access to clinical knowledge, specialized expertise. It is the application of computer and others technologies to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information. Information and communication technology has not been adopted in most healthcare settings in Nigeria. Implementation of ICTs in Nigerian healthcare settings is highly recommended, for it will define professional relevance of tomorrow.

Keywords: Healthcare Data Management; Information and Communication Technology; Electronic Health Records; Health Information Technology; Nigeria