Benefits of Health Information Technology Expansion in the Federal Healthcare System

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Background & Purpose

A significant amount of the annual federal budget goes towards healthcare. Any investment that improves the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the U.S. healthcare system is a worthwhile venture if we are to reduce the federal deficit or slow down the progression of debt accrual. The purpose of this literature review is to examine the benefits within the federal healthcare system due to expanding health information technology (HIT).

Methods

- Literature review
- 3 databases: OneSearch, Wiley Online, Google Scholar
- 2009-2014
- Journal articles only
- Keywords "health information technology" "benefits"
- 439 articles met inclusion criterion
- 31 articles included after exclusion criterion

Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality's Five Goals for HIT Adoption

Improve safety by decreasing medical errors	Increase info sharing between providers, areas, & patients	Help patients transition between settings	Reduce duplicative or unnecessary tests	Increase knowledge & understanding of benefits of HIT
Overwhelmingly positive studies on HIT improving patient safety	Higher use of HIT shown to increase efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare, improve communication among stakeholders	EHR benefits in portability; screening tools	HIT investment reduces workload, overutilization, impacts providers' care	Financial and productivity benefits of HIT, improved access to care, increased safety and quality
Examples include computerized physician order entry (CPOE), clinical decision support system (CDSS), & electronic health records (EHRs)	Examples include EHRs, social networking sites, Twitter©, & mobile health technologies	Little other research available to date; more interoperable systems needed	Examples include EHR prompts or reminders & CDSS applications	Example includes electronic learning to improve upon worldwide provider shortage

Conclusion: The federal healthcare system should continue to look into expanding into HIT to negate rising costs, improve upon patient access to and safety of care, expand upon areas in which providers and patients can communicate, and enhance the overall quality of healthcare