M D S Foss

Free and Open Source software to store the electronic medical record

How to record the visit medical record

Patient search

Before you can record an OPD visit, you must first choose a registered patient from the search screen.

This screen lists all the patients whose details have been entered into the computer. You can move around in this list using the navigation buttons on the bottom row (first, next, last).

At the top there are details about the person logged in to this PC followed by a language choice button. Each user can decide on a language in which to show prompts on the screens. At present these include Sinhala and Tamil – more languages will be added in the future. This button only changes the appearance of the screen prompts; all data is added using the Roman alphabet (a, b, c...). However in *Remarks* fields you can switch the keyboard to Sinhala or Tamil characters. This choice is remembered next time you log on.

The second row of the screen has a set of menu buttons that show the main modules of the database. Choosing one of these menu items will take you to another module in the system. The modules available to you are based on your user group. Different users will see the set of modules available for their group. If you need access to further modules, contact your System Administrator.

Show 25 entries

As computer screens vary in shape and size, this button allows you to choose the number of rows that appear on the screen. If you choose fewer rows the system runs quicker. With a fast connection, show more rows.

Search

On the right side of the screen is a search field. Here you can enter data from any of the fields in each row. As you start to type letters or numbers, the screen will show a selection of patients that contain those characters no matter where they appear in the record. The easiest way to find the correct patient is to type in their hospital number. If this is not known it is possible to search for the patient using a variety of criteria such as name, date of birth, residence village etc.

Number

Following international practice, the patients stored in the hospital database are given a Patient Registration Number in the order in which they were entered. Each patient will keep this number on future visits to the hospital. It never changes. In order to identify the hospital where the patient was registered this number starts with the hospital code.

Patient personal information

The fields selected for this list have been chosen to provide enough information to choose the correct patient. The field name comes from the ICTA Interoperability Standards for Sri Lanka. When the screen first shows, the rows are sorted by Patient Registration Number. To sort by other columns, click on the field name.
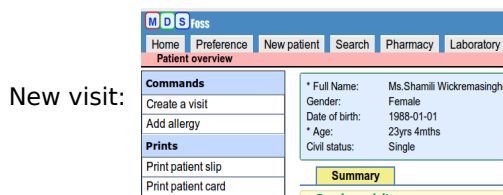
Navigation around search screens

At the bottom of the screen below the patient rows is a navigation button. For any particular sort order, it is possible to browse through the search screens in sequence. You can choose the number of the screen (1,2,3...) or move forward or back. This function is especially useful if you have shortened the list using the search button.
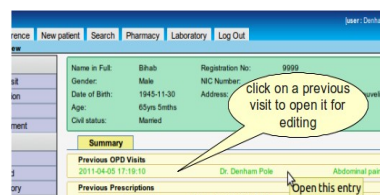
Creating a visit

First choose a patient from the *Search screen*. On the *Patient overview* screen that appears next, create a new visit from the menu or choose a previous visit to view. After one day visit data may not be changed.

New visit:

View previous visit:

Viewing and entering visit data

After choosing to view a previous visit or to enter a new one, the screens that appear look the same. The difference is that data for visits on previous days can only be viewed but not changed. You can only add *Remarks*.

The date of the visit is recorded as well as the onset date for the complaint. You can choose clinical information from 3 lists – Common complaints, ICD-10 diagnoses or SNOMED findings. If the complaint or ICD term is one of the notifiable diseases, it shows in red and the patient can be notified to the local Medical Officer of Health. This is not available for SNOMED terms. Another option on this screen is to enter free text remarks in English, Sinhala or Tamil. Abbreviated text blocks may also be called (new blocks of text can be stored in the database).

Number

The visits to this hospital are numbered to identify an individual visit. This number is given by the computer.

Date & time of visit

This defaults to the current time when the visit is registered. If the time in your computer is wrong, ask the System Administrator to correct it.

Onset date

The day the complaint first started. This defaults to the current date when the visit is registered. If wished this can be changed by clicking in this field then choosing a date from the pop-up calendar.

Doctor

This is the name of the doctor responsible for the patient on this visit. The computer shows the person who is logged on but this can be changed. If a name is not in the list, it can be added in the system table *Users*.

Complaints / Injury

The reasons the patient gives for coming to the hospital can be chosen from a pop-up list. This list can be changed in the Data table *Complaints*. The complaints can be chosen according to the type of term. As well as simple complaints, all the notifiable disease are included - they show in red in this pop-up window.

ICD / SNOMED

Optionally, diagnostic terms from the ICD or findings from the SNOMED database can be selected by clicking on the corresponding field. There is a special help-sheet for these databases.

Remarks

Free text can be entered in this field. There are no restrictions on the text that can be entered. Canned texts can be used by entering the abbreviation with a '\'. To enter text in Sinhala or Tamil ask your System Administrator to install the appropriate keyboard. When installed, press Ctrl-Space and the letters will change to the chosen language. Fields with a grey triangle in the bottom-right corner can be enlarged by dragging with the mouse.

Save

Store the visit you have just entered. Any errors in input will be shown and have to be corrected before the visit is stored. After saving the visit the computer shows the *Patient Visit Information* screen where you can add more information or print out reports on the visit.

Cancel

Leave the screen without recording a new visit.