# CHAPTER ONE

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

In the late 1970s and early 1980s the computer use began to become increasingly common in healthcare environments. The use of computers has radically changed the science and practice of health or medical informatics (Shortliffe & Blois 2006). Since then, improvements in the efficiency of computers, computer networks, and the internet have helped the healthcare professionals to support their decision-making processes by increasing the accessibility and availability of information (Winkelman & Leonard 2004). Throughout the world, various organizations are implementing Information Systems (IS) to enhance the business processes and to have efficient information flow for their day to day business activities. Similarly the hospitals are also implementing IT for increasing the accessibility and availability of information to improve the patient care and decision making processes.

Before computerized patient information Management System came into practice, it was difficult to keep proper records of the daily activities of hospitals, patient information, maintenance schedule of equipment’s in the hospital, and how funds are being allocated and used. This resulted in waste of money, time and manpower. Patient information Management System is an information management system designed to help manage the various aspects of a hospital (administrative, clinical and financial). It helps in monitoring and controlling the hospital’s daily transactions, as well as the hospital’s performance. It also helps to address the critical requirements of the hospital. Patient information Management System enables access to the right information and automation of complex task, thereby allowing staff to spend more time caring for patients. Patient information Management System is custom built to meet the specific requirements of the medium and large size hospitals across the globe.

## 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Prior to the problem encountered with patient’s attitude to their check up and treatment, the nurse’s laxity (laziness) over their duties, the need arose to develop a software that will be able to solve the problem. The problem caused by the use of manual method of keeping outpatient information can only be solved by computerizing the hospital outpatient information system. The clinic records information on piece of papers called prescription sheet and output it in a file jacket provided for each patient. A critical study of hospital patient information system reveals the following problems:

1. Lack of enough and proper storage facilities like file cabinets, visible shelf filing system.
2. The type of materials used for keeping records are easily damaged which results in the loss of information.
3. Time as well as energy wasted in an attempt to provide information which is needed in the generation of statistical report.
4. Problems in areas of:
5. The last drugs administered to a patient.
6. The last diagnosis made.
7. Retrieval of a patient file who has misplaced his/her hand card (small card) and cannot recall his/her registration number.
8. Contents in a file are misplaced as a result of laziness and carelessness of the people working in the storage section.
9. The security and privacy of medical record is not guaranteed.

## 1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This project is necessitated by the problem encountered in keeping patient medical record in a fast growing population. This project is aimed at developing a customized, computerized patient information system designed to monitor and control the tracking of in and out patient record in the health Centre.

The overall objectives of the project is to provide a computerized program that:

1. To Stores data relating to patient in the hospital
2. To Provide a means of easy access of record generated from the processing of the mass data collected concerning an entity or patients in the clinic.
3. To Provide menu-driven and user friendly software programs for the purpose of maintaining records in the clinic.
4. To Generate reports and data that can be used for analysis.
5. To Reduce staff stress levels.
6. To Computerize the present convention method of keeping patients record in the clinic.

## 1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The study of medical record keeping is specialized in hospital administration and complex organization that deals entirely with sick people (patients) and other services which is based on the implementation of a new system. Almost every research is bound to face problems and weaknesses, which constitute same difficulties to research study. The research is limited by some factor, the time factor is vital since the project must be carried out within a given time frame.

## 1.5 METHODOLOGY

The need for information is very essential in carrying out this research project. The methods of research that is being carried out for this project work include:

* 1. Information will be gotten from patient’s record officer of the clinic.
  2. Review of manual methods of records keeping.
  3. Also internet will be surfed to get relevant information.
  4. Php and Mysql will be used for its implementation.

## 1.6 PROJECT WORK ORGANIZATION

The report is explained in details from chapter 1, which contains the preliminary part of the project that discusses the procedures/methods used in carrying out the research.

Chapter two discusses the literature review of various researchers in the field and their analysis.

Chapter three discusses the system design and methodology that explains the methods used.

Chapter four explains the system analysis, implementation and integration that delivers the implied system of the work.

Chapter five discussed the summary, recommendation and conclusion of the project.