NeuroHEALIS

A Neurosurgical Health Information System for Integration of Clinical Research and Clinical Care



Athanassios Hatzis, PhD

Health Informatics Consultant/Analyst Email: hatzis@neuro.gr



Presenter Background Info

- Education
 - BSc CS MSc AI PhD Speech Technology
- R&D Assistive Technology (10 Years)
 - SpandH Group, CS Dept, Univ.Sheffield
- HIT Manager (3 Years)
 - Neurosurgery Department, Univ. of Athens
 - Evangelismos General Hospital
- 13 Years Experience with Clinicians and Medical Applications



Medical Staff – The Driving Force

- Head of Dept. Prof. Damianos Sakas
 - CIS (Functional Disorders) Clinical Research
 - Resident M. Themistokleous (Parkinson)
 - Resident V. Konofaou (Spasticity)
 - Resident L. Stavrinou (Dystonia)
- Assistant Prof. George Stranjalis
 - EMR Clinical Care
- Assistant Prof. Stylianos Gatzonis
 - EPILEPSY (EPILDA, BIOSIM-NTUA)
 - Clinical Research and Clinical Care



Lesson 1 – Communication Issues

Main obstacles

- Low priority of IT issues
- Lack of coordination and organisation
- Lack of communication
- Lack of planning and clear objectives

Main reasons

- Contradictory priorities and needs
- Overloaded appointment schedule
- OR heavy schedule



IT Local Network Bridge The Gap

- Dispersed locations
 - Site 1 outside the Hospital Network
 - The Hellenic Neurosurgical Research Centre
 - Site 2 inside hospital without Network
 - The Neurosurgery Clinic
 - The Operating Room
 - The Lecture Amphitheater
- Site 1,2 NOT LINKED
- Network planning was underestimated



IT Infrastructure Solution

- In the Beginning (2006)
 - Site 1, LAN (1 Server, 12 PCs, ADSL)
 - Site 2, 9 Standalone PCs, ISDN
 - Site 1, Site 2 Do not communicate
- Today (2009)
 - Site 1 (2 LANs, 1 Local 1 Webhosting)
 - Site 2, 15 PCs on MLS VPN LAN
 - 3 ADSL Lines (2 MLS VPN, 1 Web VPN)
 - Secure Access/Linking inside/outside

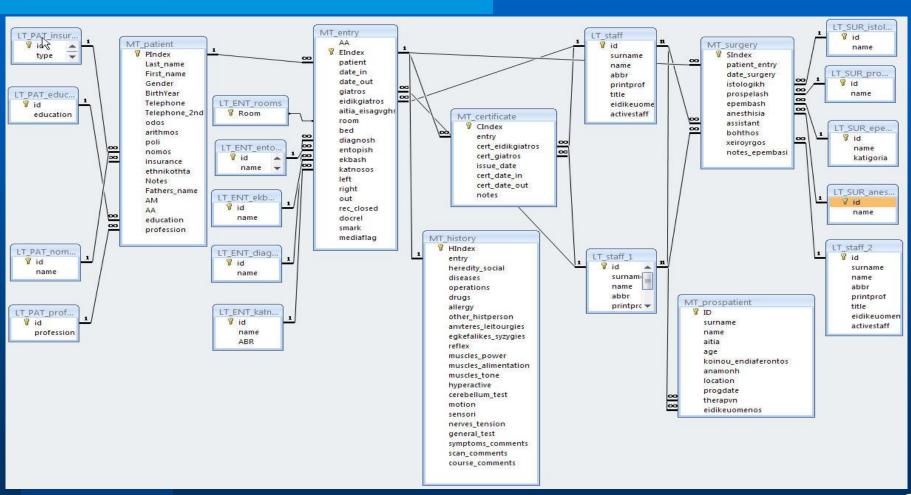


Lesson 2 – Networking Issues

- Clinicians Misunderstanding
 - Network Security Policy issues
 - Database Availability-Access issues
 - No plan and budget for the cost of Networking solutions
- Hospital Management Indifference
 - Act "independently", feasible solution
 - Private/Departmental Funding
 - Informal permission to proceed



EMR – Phase 1 (ER Diagram)





EMR Phase 2 – Migration

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Lesson 3 – Migration Issues

- Another underestimated task
 - Cost
 - Time
- Many stacked/stumbled over
 - Residents, Medical Associates
 - Other Non-IT Experts
 - A small IT company
 - Be patient... keep waiting... (1998-2006)



EMR Phase 3 - Implementation

- Data Forms
 - View/Entry Purpose
- Catalogues
 - View/Searching/Filtering Purpose
- Reports
 - Patients IN, Discharge Certificate, etc...
- Digital Media Record
 - Linking with the Patient Record
 - Storage/Retrieval Purpose



EMR Phase 3 – Data Forms

Free Text, Selection Input Methods

- Admission Form
 - Demographic, Admission Data
- EMR Form in three sections
 - 1) Patient 2) Admissions 3) Operations
 - History Record
 - Physical Examination
 - Radiology Comments
 - Clinical Course
 - Discharge Certificate
 - Surgical Operation Form



EMR Phase 3 – EMR Form





EMR Phase 3 – Catalogues

- Pending data (open/closed) admissions)
- Patients IN Catalogue
- All Patients Catalogue
- All Admissions Catalogue
- All Operations Catalogue
- Histology Completion Catalogue



EMR Phase 3 – Examples

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EMR Phase 3 – Query/Reports

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EMR Phase 3 – Daily Reports

Discharge Certificate



Patients IN List

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4	43	ΜΗΝΙΓΓΙΩ		ΣΤ	МП	ПХ	18-Φεβ-09	147
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EMR – Phase 3 DIGITAL MEDIA RECORD

- Contents
 - Photos of the radiology film
 - Photos from the surgical operation
 - Video-Clips from surgical operation
 - Histology scanned documents
- Patient Folder Implementation
- -KM12000 (inside folder....)
 - 090215-KM14567-SURGERY (folder)
 - 080925-KM12345-HISTOLOGY (folder)



CIS Phase 4 - Clinical Research Neurosurgical Databases

- Spasticity, Parkinson, Dystonia
- EPILEPSY (Already Implemented)
- Data Completion Method
 - Resident completes a printed form
 - Secretary fills the data in a digital form
- Periodic Use vs. Daily Use
- Clinical Research vs. Clinical Practice
- It is often not easy to distinguish

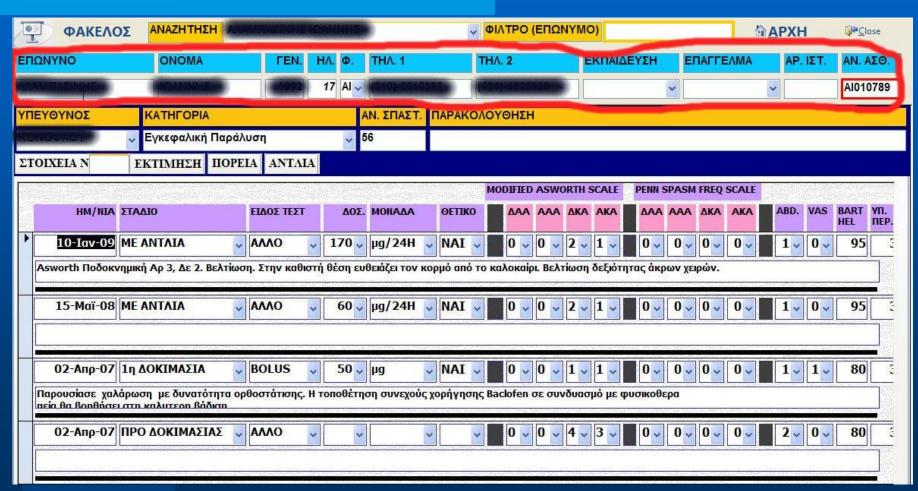


CIS Phase 4 – Spasticity DB

- Spasticity is a chronic disorder
- Surgical treatment with an
 - Implanted Pump Control Device
- Data Forms
 - Extra Patient Related Fields
 - General Comments
 - Clinical Evaluation Tests
 - Clinical Course
 - Operations and Pump tuning

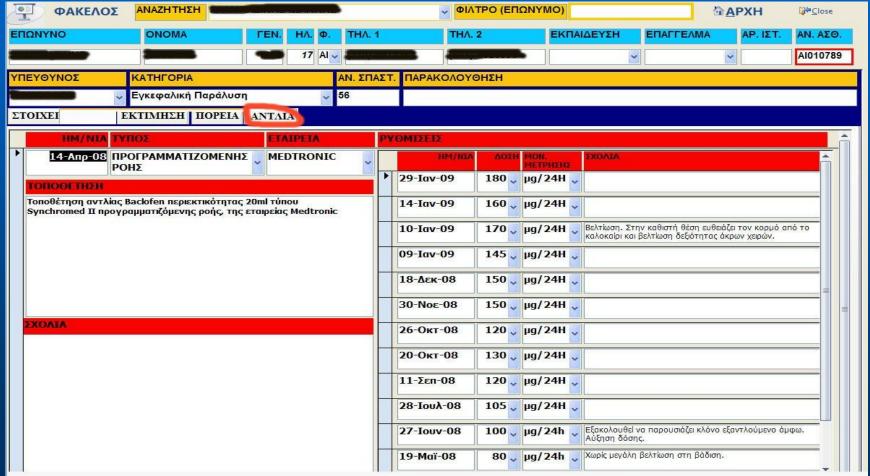


CIS Phase 4 – Evaluation Form





CIS Phase 4 Operations/Pumps Tuning





CIS Phase 4 – Linking with EMR

- EMR tables were linked on this separate database
- Demographic Data
- Admission Data
- Surgical Operation Data



CIS Phase 5 – Continuity of Care

- The continuity of care problem cycle
 - Patients with chronic disorders may
 - get in different clinics
 - see different doctors
 - stay at home and get slowly worse
 - get seriously ill, go into hospitals
 - Discharged and..... Cycle begins again
 - Follow-up monitoring plan in the clinic



CIS Phase 5 Follow-up Monitoring





Phase 6 – Database Security

- Reports are given only with consent form signed by senior medical staff
- Physical location of CIS backend in the research center server
- Physical location of EMR backend in the clinic/hospital
- Restrict user network remote access for CIS from the clinic
- Frontend password protected execution



Lesson to learn – Security Issues

- Consent forms signed by the medical staff for exporting data created conflicts among the staff members
- Everyone wants to export data without permission, without authorization
- DB administrator is exposed to dangerous situations because of uncontrolled release of sensitive data



What about IT Staff Support

- Hospital IT staff 4 Persons
 - not involved with departmental network
- Departmental IT staff 0 Persons !!!
 - LANs Support
 - Web Sites-Email Support
 - Database Administration
 - OR Teleconference/Recording Support
 - Outsourcing for IT special needs
- IT Management, R&D 1 Person



What about other staff

- Departmental Secretaries
 - 2P Read Access, 1P (R/W All DBs)
- Nursing Staff
 - Not Involved
- Other Departments
 - Not Involved



Future Plans

- Hellenic EMR Open Source
 - Portable, Working Off-line
 - Web or wireless Synchronization
- A freeware version of the front end
- Participation on a Thematic Network on Neurodegenerative Disorders
- Participation on certification authority
- IT education, consultation services



Thank You

- Enjoy Samos
- Enjoy Greece
- Enjoy Life
- Send me a smile ;-)