TBMI19 Medical information systems
Essay assignment 2015

Health for me

Background

The Swedish eHealth Agency plan to soon launch their service Health for me [Hälsa för mig][1], which is a personal health account platform. Health for me lets the individual person input, collect, store and read information that is in one way or another related to his or her health. The information might be written by the person direct into the platform, created by various kinds of connected applications from different vendors, extracted from electronic health records or received from other sources. The information in Health for me is planned to follow the person during his or her entire lifetime, so the account has the potential to contain large amounts information for each person.

One of Health for me's features is that each person can choose to share and transfer a copy of parts or all of his or her stored information to a caregiver's electronic health record system. The information transfer will be done via public technical interfaces, but Health for me's requirement specification does not specify how the technical interfaces are designed or operates. The caregivers are therefore afraid that they will receive information that is unstructured and stored in ways that will make it impossible to find the potentially relevant parts in the large pile of received information.

Assignment

Your assignment is to investigate how the information can be stored inside Health for me and transferred through the technical interfaces in a way that makes it easy for the caregivers to find the relevant parts in the transferred information. You may choose to restrict the information to one specific area, for example life style, dietary, and activity information or healthcare data. However, information entered into Health for me that originate from different sources must be included.

The assignment is due on January 15 17:00.

Please see other side for further instructions.

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[1] http://www.ehalsomyndigheten.se/ehalsotjanster/Invanartjanster/HalsaForMig---ett-personligt-halsokonto/

Hints

You do not need to read or reference documents describing the specific Health for me platform. (The documents seem to only be available in Swedish.) It is enough to focus on personal health account platforms in general and how they can transfer information to electronic health records. However, make sure that your (appropriate) assumptions on which kind of information that is transferred are explicitly stated in the essay.

A hint is that since we look at this issue from an information retrieval perspective recall and precision might be a suitable framework, but then also include the potential costs of increasing the recall and precision. What kind of structure is needed, and how can terminologies improve retrieval? Consult the expected learning outcomes of the course as a guide to finding key aspects in this endeavor. **However, security (as in protection of privacy and confidentiality) and legal aspects should be excluded.** Also remember that the assumed target reader is a fellow student with no knowledge of medical informatics.

More information can be found in the Course information, Essay manual and Writing with References documents accessible via Lisam.