Homework2: Alan Jones

## Why did the authors take on this topic?

The authors believe that the implementation of the electronic health record (EHR)

presents great opportunities and challenges to medical staff and health

researchers.

## What is the importance of the topic?

The widespread and swift adoption of the EHR revolutionized the way patient care

is documented, but it also presented challenges for health record data consumers.

Researchers that were reliant on the medical record as a source of data are

confronted with new capabilities of analyzation as well as data in altered

presentation formats and a different set of difficulties in accessing data.

## What was the purpose of the article?

The purpose was to identify some of the major opportunities and challenges

identified by a non-informatics nurse researcher when using data from the EHR,

while also discussing the implications EHR implementation has on nurse researcher practice.

## What are the key concepts and main points discussed?

EHR is encouraged to improve quality, safety, and efficacy. These systems offer

the opportunity of capturing large data sets for analysis, and they have the

ability to provide nurse researchers with new tools to generate knowledge for the science. EHR does, however, present significant challenges to consider ranging

from data security, methods of implementation, and differences in proprietary

systems. These systems are often written by non-nurse professionals who do not

fully understand the cognitive work of practice that EHR can provide. Facilities

still use a combination of paper records and EHR, which can create issues for

researchers. Unstructured data fields, such as free text notes and emails, can

create hidden data pockets. Privacy requirements can add administrative hurdles

and burdens that use time and resources.

## Do the authors offer up evidence to support their main arguments?

They provide a lot of points to support their argument that, while EHR has

enormous potential, there are still a lot of concerns to consider in its research implications and limitations.

## How solid is the evidence?

The evidence is interesting, although no quantitative data to support their

claims is listed in the article. The points made are logical, but there are not

necessarily a lot of references or data used and listed that support the

seemingly logical points of discussion.

## Did the authors fulfill the purpose?

The authors fulfilled their purpose of identifying major opportunities and

challenges when using data from an EHR. The purpose never explicitly stated that

there would be quantitative data and references, so the purpose of identifying

issues with EHR was achieved.

## What are the implications of their findings?

The implications are that, while EHR presents a lot of obvious advantages in

concern to organization, input, filing and analyzing, there are several

limitations to its use. The increasing volume of time-variant documentation in

structured fields presents the benefits of data volume and the ability to access

100% of the population. EHR data, however, still lack reliability resulting from

omissions and data entry workarounds, and pose privacy challenges.

## Do you see any implications beyond the ones the authors discuss? If so, what are they?

I also see the cost of setup and maintenance as an issue with EHR. HIPAA

violations are easier with EHR. The ability to simply copy and paste information

(such as assessment) is much easier to do with EHR.

summary(cars)

## speed dist   
## Min. : 4.0 Min. : 2.00   
## 1st Qu.:12.0 1st Qu.: 26.00   
## Median :15.0 Median : 36.00   
## Mean :15.4 Mean : 42.98   
## 3rd Qu.:19.0 3rd Qu.: 56.00   
## Max. :25.0 Max. :120.00

