Designing Shared Electronic Records for Chronic Care

This paper reports preliminary findings from an ongoing research project on the development of IT support for communication and information sharing across institutional and professional boundaries within the Danish healthcare system. The project focuses on the treatment of patients with implanted ICDs (implantable cardioverter-defibrillator). These are chronic patients who usually see several different healthcare providers on a regular basis. The main findings so far are: (1) Most of the data produced and recorded as part of the care process are context-specific and often difficult to interpret unless you are an expert on the subject. Sharing these types of data across institutional and professional boundaries is not feasible. (2) Yet, it appears that a small subset of data can make sense across the different contexts and be of use to others. These data are good candidates for sharing. (3) In addition, there appears to be a need for creating new types of data specifically designed to meet the coordination needs across different contexts and expert domains. (4) The dilemma is, however, that the production of these new types of data must not require too much extra work.

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