Data Stewardship and the National Health Information Network (NHIN)

Name:

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Health data stewardship refers to ethical health information governance which involves managing, storing, and disclosing of health information to the appropriate users to ensure knowledgeable and proper use of the data (Hripcsak et al., 2014). This is an essential practice in a healthcare setting. The primary aim of this practice is to allow the right users to have access to the health information required at a particular time to use for a given valid purpose. Hence, good stewardship of the personal health information helps at maintaining the quality of the data. Secondly, this practice assures confidentiality and data integrity especially in a healthcare organization (Hripcsak et al., 2014). For instance, good stewardship of patient’s health information by nurses helps to maintain privacy and trust between caregivers and their clients. Thirdly, good stewardship ensures data availability. Stewards achieve this by ensuring that health information is supplied to the appropriate users and stored correctly after use to ensure it is available for the next use. Finally, good stewardship reduces the risk of the information. The stewards enlighten the users on the dangers of the information disclosed to ensure appropriate use of the data (Hripcsak et al., 2014). Moreover, good housing of data limits the accessibility of unauthorized users who might misuse the information that might harm the health of the consumers.

The National Health Information Network (NHIN) is a system which comprises of specific standards or conventions, and regulations which ensure secure dissemination of health information over the internet to allow meaningful use of data. The NHIN offers a standard platform for exchange of health information across different organizations. Some of the entities which can utilize this service include health care providers, federal agencies and the individual
owners or consumers of the information. Moreover, NHIN program allows the health information exchanges to take place locally or nationwide.

The NHIN aims at achieving various targets related to the security of health information and its usage besides the controlled exchange of data. Hence, the program aim at ensuring availability of appropriate information at the time of care, enhancing the coordination of healthcare data transmission among hospitals and healthcare providers such as pharmacies and laboratories. It also targets at reducing the risks of the health information and giving consumers the opportunity to manage and control their health records (Mandel et al., 2016). In that regard, this becomes an essential tool for health information stewards. This program allows stewards to perform duties regarding the safeguarding of health information efficiently by providing them with a secure platform which connects health data stewards with the authorized users. Thus, allowing them to ensure transfer of safe and accurate data to allow the authorized user to utilize the information and support healthcare operations. Therefore, security, accuracy, and availability act as points of convergence for both health information stewards and the NHIN.

The National Health Information Network (NHIN) comprises of various components in its architecture which allows the health information stewards to achieve their objectives. Thus, the foundation of the program consists of a technical support, service legal requirements, vocabulary and message standards, delivery protocols, trust frameworks and security. The features of the NHIN allow health information stewards to achieve a secure transfer of data to the required users for appropriate use (Mandel et al., 2016). For instance, the vocabulary and message requirements set the standard which the health information should meet to avoid risks. Also, the legal requirements of the programs ensure the stewards, and the consumers meet the required criteria required in the usage of the health information as the exchange take place.
References
