

## High Time to Make EHRs Mandatory

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It is a moment of pride that the field of medicine is advancing in an extra ordinary way. I am very happy to find an increasing number of paperless medical and dental centers those are maintaining medical and dental records electronically with the help of medical and dental practice management software.

Now there is huge necessity for integrating all medical specialties' and alternative medicine for the better services to the patients. As oral health reflects most of the systemic disorders it is very important to have the patients complete medical background for better diagnosis, treatment plan to achieve good prognostic values with minimal investigations and complications while managing patients entering in to dental office.

The time has come to incorporate a systematic electronic health records (EHR) with an exclusively designed electronic oral health records (EOHR) folder in each and every hospital management software available in the market.

The EOHR should have an integrated link to individual patient's email address along with an alternative email id. The patient should be educated thoroughly about systematically maintaining EHR/EOHR in such way that either oral health professional or the patient should upload all medical and dental history along with clinical photographs(if any), reports of lab investigation and images of various diagnostic radiology investigation, ultrasound reports, and MRI reports along with any other special investigation reports.

The EOHR should contain not only medical and dental history of various disorders and diseases but also should have direct information or indirect information with the help of a hyperlink to medical and dental websites and information/explanation to the FAQ about the health problems.

With the advent of media and electronic gadgets, the patient friendly medical applications(apps) should raise in number and through customized applications an individual or his medical/dental specialist should able to access EOHR/medical records which can help in any dental/medical professionals even in case of life threatening medical emergencies.

Diseases may be realistic but its management can always be through the virtual mode. Thanks for the rapid growth of Telemedicine/Teledentistry/Teleradiology. Let us create a path for the most awaited and anticipated robotic dentistry by making this EHR/ EOHR readily available for the futuristic robotics in medicine and dentistry, where the doctor is said "vaidhyo narayanao hari" (doctor is considers to be a god)

Let us wish to witness such a highly sophisticated medical and oral health records reaching a common man through exploring simplest ways by incorporating whole medical records in mobile applications or through individual email addresses by encouraging individuals to have personalized webpage to maintain health records instead of using them only for their commercial and non-commercial uses. But care should be taken in creating privacy, confidentiality and protection of such online records and also to help in using these records for insurance, consumer forums and medico legal purposes.

It's our dream of the day but I am sure that it is going to become a reality one day.

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