Electronic Medical Record Use in Post-Acute Long Term Care: Proposal Phase

Jessica Paul & Kelli Janus
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Patricia Vermeersch

Background

Electronic Medical Records (EMR) are systems that receive input, store, and exhibit patient information. Designed with the primary intentions of creating legibility and direct access to patient information, EMRs have started to replace paper medical records. There is scarcity in the literature regarding the use of EMRs in long-term care settings.
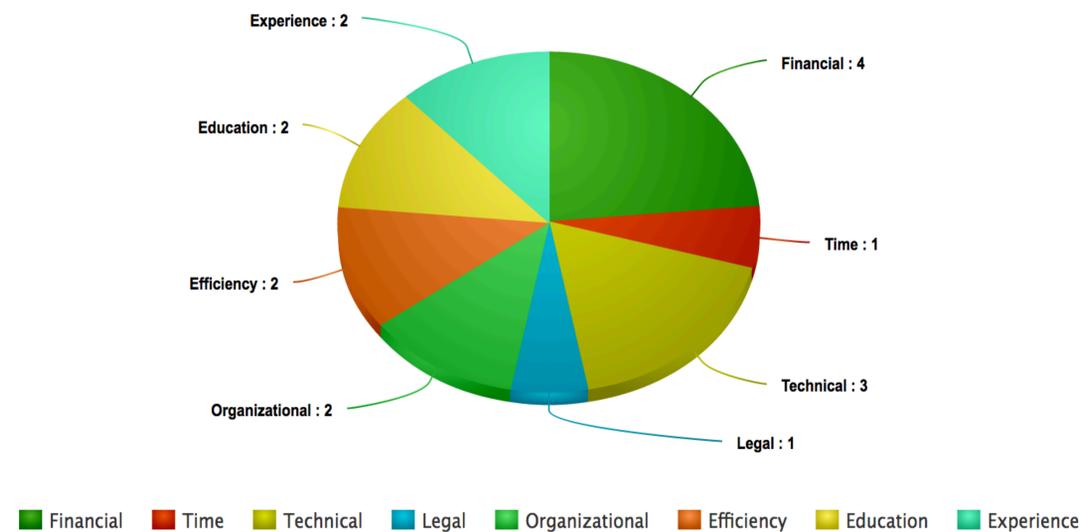
Research questions

Our initial research was guided by two primary research questions:

➢ What are the perceived positive and negative consequences of using an EMR in long term care?

➢ What are the perceived educational needs for effective use of the EMR in long term care?
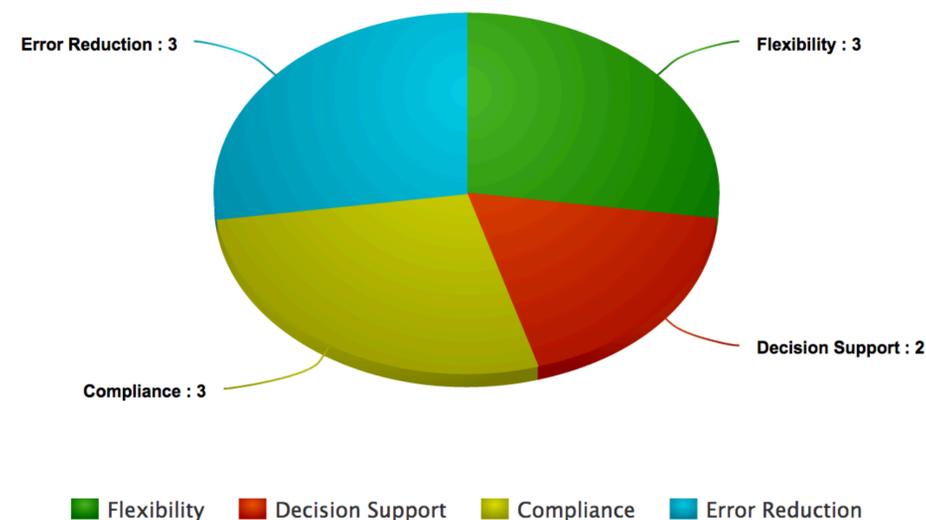
The literature

Our research was conducted through the data bases of CINAHL and Google Scholar. Search terms included: EMR, electronic medical record, barriers, acceptance, nursing, facilitators, benefits, tool, and consequences. Inclusion criteria consisted of: publication date within 10 years, research articles and research focused on EMR use in patient care.

Negative consequences of EMR

Experience : 2
Financial : 4
Education : 2
Time : 1
Efficiency : 2
Technical : 3
Organizational : 2
Legal : 1

Legend: Financial, Time, Technical, Legal, Organizational, Efficiency, Education, Experience

Positive consequences of EMR

Error Reduction : 3
Flexibility : 3
Decision Support : 2
Compliance : 3

Legend: Flexibility, Decision Support, Compliance, Error Reduction

Conclusions

We could not find a definitive assessment tool to address the research questions to begin the data collection. Therefore a new tool needs to be developed to assess both consequences and educational needs in regards to the EMR utilization in long term care.

Next steps

1. Develop a survey tool based on the literature.
2. Verify the content validity of the survey tool through review with at least one long term care facility administration and staff.
3. Pilot test the tool with at least one long term care facility and examine the psychometric properties.
4. Revise the tool for a larger study.

Implications of research

Long term care has been one of the last health care agencies to adopt the EMR. Literature regarding the positive and negative effects of electronic medical records (EMR) in long-term care is scarce. No tool has been developed to measure these effects to improve EMR adoption and use in long term care. In addition an educational needs assessment tool is necessary to optimize positive consequences of EMR use.