Connecting Americans to Their Health Care: Empowered Consumers, Personal Health Records and Emerging Technologies



NATIONAL CONFERENCE DECEMBER 7-8, 2006 WASHINGTON, D.C.

Empowered Consumers, Personal Health Records and Emerging Technologies

2006

Latest Research

David Ahern - Health eTechnologies Eric Dishman - Intel Corporation Corey Angst - University of Maryland Steve Ross - University of Colorado



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Eric Dishman Intel Corporation



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Corey Angst Center for Health Information and Decision Systems, University of Maryland



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ROBERT H. SMITH

Leaders for the Digital Economy

Latest Research: PHRs

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Agenda

- Important research topics related to PHRs
- Studies of patient value
- Predictors of value
- Barriers to adoption
- Privacy research
- Path forward in research



What should researchers measure?

- Return on Investment (ROI)?
- Relationship Capital?
- Improved Health outcomes?
- Provider perceptions?
- "..the most profound impact of personal health records may lie in their ability to encourage patients to become more active in managing their own care."¹
- "patient-empowerment' a key theme of the Nationwide Health Information Network"²
- ¹Tsai CC, Starren J. Patient Participation in Electronic Medical Records. Journal of the American Medical Association 2001;285(13):1765.
- ²Masys D, Baker D, Butros A, Cowles KE. Giving Patients Access to Their Medical Records via the Internet: The PCASSO Experience. Journal of American Medical Informatics Association 2002;9(2):181-191





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What Do Patients Value in a PHR?

- Patient-provider secure messaging¹
- Online refills
- Lab results
- Medication lists
- Disease Mngmt
- Empowerment



¹Lansky, D., Wald, J., & Flatley Brennan, P. (2005) "Overview of Personal Health Records," Connecting for Health Workgroup, Panel Discussion.

²Angst, C. M., & Agarwal, R. (2004) "Patients Take Control: Individual Empowerment with Personal Health Records," Center for Health Information and Decision Systems (Working Paper).



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Studies of Patient Value

- Patient access to PHR enhances patient's understanding of their conditions and improves communication with their physicians¹
- No negative relationships between clinician-patient as a result of system usage¹
- Patients feel increased ownership of their healthcare²
- Patients are willing to be 'empowered'³
- Value of having records available to them over the Internet was very high³
- ¹Cimino, J.J., Patel, V.L., & Kushniruk, A.W. (2001). What Do Patients Do With Access to Their Medical Records. *Medinfo*, 10(Pt 2), 1440-1444
- ²Cimino, J.J., Patel, V.L., & Kushniruk, A.W. (2002). The Patient Clinical Information System (PatCIS): Technical solutions for and experience with giving patients access to their electronic medical records. *International Journal of Medical Informatics*, 68(1-3), 113-127.
- ³Masys, D., Baker, D., Butros, A., & Cowles, K.E. (2002). Giving Patients Access to Their Medical Records via the Internet: The PCASSO Experience. *Journal of American Medical Informatics Association*, 9(2), 181-191.



Predictors of PHR Use or Desire for Use

- Convenience is a strong predictor of desire for PHR¹
- **Compliance** is a predictor of PHR use²
- **Connectedness** is a predictor of PHR use²
- Education and Knowledge of PHRs were predictors of desire for PHR³

¹Angst, C. M., & Agarwal, R. (Working Paper). "Getting Personal About Electronic Health Records: Modeling the beliefs of personal health record users and non-users," *Under Review.*

- ²Agarwal, R., & Angst, C. M. (2006). "Technology-Enabled Transformations in U.S. Health Care: Early Findings on Personal Health Records and Individual Use," In D. Galletta & P. Zhang (Eds.), *Human-Computer Interaction and Management Information Systems: Applications* (Vol. 5). Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, Inc.
- ³Angst, C.M., Agarwal, R., & Downing, J. (Working Paper). "An Empirical Examination of the Importance of Defining the PHR for Research and for Practice," *Under Review*.



Effects of Patient Empowerment

• Objective outcomes:

- Level of compliance with health treatments
- Frequency of health care seeking behavior
- Improvements in overall health
- Subjective outcomes:
 - Perceived satisfaction with health treatments
 - Perceived satisfaction with personal health
 - Perceived control over health treatments
 - Perceived responsibility for medical care
 - Level of optimism about personal health
 - Coping strategies adopted by the patient (e.g., active, confronting strategies vs. passive, denial strategies)



Will People Opt-Out?

- Privacy Concerns are an issue
- Will people relinquish some degree of privacy for the promise of better care?
- With properly crafted messages, most will¹

¹Angst, C.M., and Agarwal, R. (2006) "Digital Health Records and Privacy Concerns: Overcoming key barriers to adoption," *27th International Conference on Information Systems*, Milwaukee, WI, pp. 1-9.



Barriers to Adoption

Concerns that Keep Me From Using/Endorsing PHRs



¹Angst, C.M., and Agarwal, R. (2006) "Digital Health Records and Privacy Concerns: Overcoming key barriers to adoption," *27th International Conference on Information Systems*, Milwaukee, WI, pp. 1-9.



Barriers to Adoption



Angst, C. M., & Agarwal, R. (2006) "Barriers to EHR Adoption," Center for Health Information and Decision Systems (Working Paper).



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Privacy Concerns



Types of Privacy Concerns

Angst, C. M., & Agarwal, R. (2006) "Barriers to EHR Adoption," Center for Health Information and Decision Systems (Working Paper).



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Findings: Trust in the PHR

How comfortable would you be if a PHR system was provided, sponsored, and/or maintained by:



Institution Level Adoption





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Path Forward in Research

- Distal connections are dangerous
 - Focus on intermediate steps
 - What increases uptake
 - What increases follow-through
 - Are there attitudinal or perceptual benefits which can/will translate into objective value long term
- Research design
 - Currently there are multiple pilot projects either underway (Dell, IBM, GM, GE, etc) or planned (RWJ, AHRQ) and they don't have enough rigorous research tied to them
 - Some PHR pilot programs are poorly designed
 - Incentives aren't doing what they are supposed to (i.e. encouraging use rather than encouraging a single visit)
 - Aren't sufficient funds to make the projects successful
 - May conclude that the 'empowered' consumer is not of value..why...because we didn't properly design a program or have the right metrics in place to assess their value.



Path Forward in Research

- We need to push for randomized controlled trials.
- We could accomplish a lot in a short period of time with a properly designed pseudo-experiment
- Need to work closely with not only vendors and employers but also groups who collect and aggregate outcomes data or Rx data (only way to assess objective value from a PHR).
- Need to move beyond medical informatics, medicine, and IS research in isolation and begin to cross disciplines. Each discipline brings new insights.



Empowered Consumers, Personal Health Records and Emerging Technologies

2006

Latest Research

Steve Ross University of Colorado Health Sciences Center



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Patient-Accessible Electronic Health Records at University of Colorado Hospital

Steve Ross MD University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

Connecting for Health Conference Washington, DC 2006

Organization

- Simple patient portal
 My Doctor's Office
- Bare bones access to records
 SPPARO
- Patient friendly access to records
 - Diabetes-STAR
- Future Plans at University of Colorado Hospital

I. My Doctor's Office

My Doctor's Office

Administrative functions
 Appointments
 Referrals
 Refills
 Secure electronic messaging

Offered at no cost



My Doctor's Office

An easy win where installed
 Improved patient satisfaction
 1 additional message daily for 250 patients enrolled

II. SPPARO

SPPARO

- System Providing Patients Access to Records Online
- Access to test results AND clinical notes
- No translation or interpretation
- No explicit theoretical model

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SPPARO: Clinical Trial

Design

- Heart failure practice at University of Colorado Hospital
- Control group: delayed intervention
- Assessments over 6 months in 2003
- Enrollment
 - □ 25% of clinic patients from waiting room

Use

- □ Each month, ~ 20% logged in
- ~1 login per clinic visit

Funded by the Commonwealth Fund

SPPARO: Outcomes

Improvements

□ Adherence (general)

Self-efficacy (trend)

Patient satisfaction with doctor-patient communication (trend)

No effect

□ Adherence (medication)

Health status

Utilization of health services

Ross SE, Earnest MA, Lin CT. JAMIA (2004) 11:410-7, JMIR (2005) 7:e13

SPPARO: Patient Interviews

- Valued transparency
- Anecdotes of benefit
- Medical jargon sometimes hard to decipher...
-But STRONG interest in candid, unvarnished record
 "My life is at stake"

SPPARO: Doctor Interviews

- Soon became "invisible" in routine practice
 Changing documentation

 None left information out
 Some made small additions for patients

 No major problems

 One patient request for annotation
- OK with the concept...
- ...but "show me the quality"

III. Diabetes-STAR

Diabetes-STAR

- "Diabetes-System to Access Records"
- Added disease management system to
 My Doctor's Office
 SPPARO
- Explicit use of constructs from behavioral science theories, specifically...

Diabetes-STAR Interface



Summarize health information in graphical format

Emphasize key clinical information

_Awareness of risk of complications

_Self-care outcome expectancies

_Behavioral capability _Confidence

Diabetes-STAR: Design of Goal-Setting

- Based on "Diabetes Priority Program" kiosk program*
 - □ Effective in improving diabetes self-care
 - Patients came early to appointments
 - Diet and exercise modules
 - Assessment
 - Guided goal setting
 - Gave printout to physician
 - □ Staff member follow up in 2 weeks

Diabetes-STAR Goal-Setting



Choose category of goal (diet) Choose specific goal Identify obstacles Identify strategies to overcome obstacles Rate selfconfidence Automatic followup

Diabetes-STAR Compared with "Diabetes Priority Program"

- Similar design
 - Guided goal setting to improve self-care
 Shared with physician
- But:
 - Provides personalized clinical information
 - Not tied to clinic visit
 - □ Goal-setting recommended, not required
 - □ Follow up by e-mail (not staff)

Outcomes: Recruitment

Enrolled 10% of patients with diabetes

Representative demographics (age, education, race / ethnicity)

Many with Internet access didn't enroll

- □ Not engaged in self-care? "Not my role"?
- Only limited, casual use of Internet?
- □ Research, not standard care?

Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health eTechnologies Initiative

Outcomes: Use Interactive \rightarrow Patient Retention



Outcomes: Use Interactive \rightarrow More Use (Higher "Dose")



Use of Diabetes-STAR Goal Setting

- Initially, very little goal setting
- Began monthly prompts for both groups, which mentioned goal setting in intervention group

Diet	82 goals
Exercise	60 goals
Adherence to Medications / Monitoring	20 goals
Smoking	11 goals

Use of Diabetes-STAR: Lessons

- Personalized (intervention) system did result in more frequent use
- Goal setting was less than expected
 Logins: 3 month survey: Patients *like* reminders
 No explicit expectations were set for goal-setting
 Would prompting before appointments help?

Outcomes

Self-care activities
 No significant improvements in

 Diet
 Exercise
 Adherence
 Smoking

 Biological markers

 No apparent improvements

Diabetes-STAR: Conclusions

Program was designed well

- Based on theoretical models
- Usable
- So why did self-care improve with "Diabetes Priority Program", but not with Diabetes-STAR?
 Insufficiently directive?
 - Not enough goals set
 - □ Weak commitment / accountability?
 - Automated follow up vs. human follow up
 - □ Not immediately actionable?
 - Not integrated with office visit

IV. Future Plans

The Future of PHRs at University of Colorado Hospital

- Administrative portal / messaging
 Little controversy in rollout
- Labs / Notes: allayed concerns
 - □ No deluge of messages
 - Problems (angry, worried, confused patients) are rare
- Persistent concerns
 - Rare problems can still be an enormous hassle
 - Primary care vs. specialty care

The Future of PHRs at University of Colorado Hospital

Diabetes-STAR

- Provide to all patients at UCH clinics
- Send prompt 1 week before clinic appointment
- Direct participant to set goal before appointment
- Continue computerized follow up

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