

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman
Patricia Dowling, FHRIM
Records and
Information Manager,
Greenpark Healthcare Trust
Musgrave Park Hospital
Stockman's Lane
BELFAST BT9 6UJ
Tel No : 02890 902903 (Work)
Patricia.Dowling@
greenpark.ni.nhs.uk

Chief Executive & IFHRO Director
Lorraine Nicholson
FHRIM MRSH MIHM
141 Leander Drive
Castleton, Rochdale OL11 2XE
Tel: 0161 2752918 (office hours)
E-mail: l.nicholson@zen.co.uk

Director of Education
Moira McLaughlin FHRIM
Trust Health Records Manager
NHS Grampian
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary
Foresterhill Road,
Aberdeen AB25 2ZN
Tel: 01224 552205
E-Mail: Moira.mclaughlin@
arh.grampian.scot.nhs.uk

President
Dr Marianne Evans
25 Glan Yr Afon Road
Sketty, Swansea SA2 9JA
Tel: 01792 703279

Director of Finance
Stuart Green FHRIM (Hon)
40 Hencorner Crescent
Chapel Allerton, Leeds LS7 3NS
Tel/Fax: 01274 365808
E-mail: stuart.green@
bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk

Director of Marketing
Isabel Chevis FHRIM
21 Snowdrop Walk,
Biggleswade,
Bedfordshire SG18 8TX
Tel: 01767 220650 (09.00—17.00)
E-mail: ichevis@ntlworld.com

Office Manager
Gordon Nicholson
141 Leander Drive,
Castleton, Rochdale OL11 2XE
Tel/Fax: 01706 868481
E-mail: ihrim@zen.co.uk

Director of Publications
Cynthia Henderson FHRIM
97 Fairview Manor
Danestone, Aberdeen
AB22 8ZY
Tel: 01224 554092 (office hours)
Fax: 01224 554848
E-mail: henelec@aol.com

Medical Records Standards in Selected Countries and Iran :

A Comparative Study

Dr. Abazar Hajavi, Head Of Medical Record Department Of School Of Management And Information Sciences Of Iran University Of Medical Sciences.

Dr. F. Ebadi F. Azar, Associate Professor Of School Of Management And Information Sciences Of Iran University Of Medical Sciences.

Zahra Meidani, M.S. in Medical Record Education, ,Instructor of College of Nursing and Allied Health Professional Hormozgan University of Medical Sciences.

Edited by: Shirley Pilon, CCHRA(C), IFHRO Director, Canada.

Keywords:

Standards, medical records, Evaluation, performance evaluative standards, guidelines

Abstract:

Studies conducted in Iran showed that the absence of specific and applied standards relating to medical records, and the absence of a custodian organization, resulted in an incompatibility of medical records with standards and a deviation in the path of the activities of medical records departments from their main goals. Today's medical record professionals identified the development of a mechanism for establishing medical records standards as a reform priority. So, conducting a comparative study of related medical records standards in developed countries with Iran, is important in order to facilitate a nationwide standardization movement in Iran's medical record departments.

Introduction:

Efforts of healthcare organisations and government to achieve excellent quality healthcare have grown in the last decade.(Ritonja and Hocevar,2001).Most health care managers and policy makers now view as imperatives the evaluation and control of quality and improvement in quality (Rooney and Ostenberg, 1999). In their regards ,accreditation organisations have been involved in formal quality assessment and improvement for many years – from the days of the first medical audits through its establishment of current standards on improving organisation performance(Skurka ,1998).

Patient records are used in surveys by these agencies in evaluating care and in determining compliance with standards of the respective agency (Francis ,2000). But in developing countries like Iran ,because of lack of the standards ,reliance on abstracting data from the patient's medical record to determine whether a standard has been met may be too narrow or shortsighted (Rooney and Ostenberg,1999). Canada, USA, and Australia are among the countries that have well-established hospital evaluation programs, with standards for medical records and medical record departments(Vincent Roa,1999).This study compares the strengths and weaknesses, and similarities and differences of medical records standards in the mentioned countries with Iran in order to facilitate a standardisation movement in our medical records departments.

The Importance of Medical Records:

Concerns over cost and quality have created a climate where decision makers at all levels are seeking objective data for evaluating health care organizations (Salmon et al ,2003).

The medical record documents the care of the patient and so are used as primary tools for evaluating the quality of patient care rendered by the medical staff(Kunders ,1998).

The quality of health care should be reflected in the completeness of the medical record as it is the most important source of information for assessing the technical process of care and the outcomes of the process .Indeed, some literatures revealed the quality of medical records reflects the quality of care provided by physicians (Dra ,2000).