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PERCEPTIONS OF DENTAL PRACTITIONERS ON THE USE OF DENTAL ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS IN PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTERS IN KUWAIT

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The use of electronic patient records improves healthcare quality for patients and increases efficiency of clinics. The perceptions of clinicians are important for adopting such systems into routine practice. Our aim was to explore the perceptions of dentists in Kuwait about the use of electronic dental records. This cross-sectional national survey, 300 self-administered questionnaires were distributed to dentists working at randomly selected primary-health centers in Kuwait. The survey statements is about benefits, features and functionality of electronic records, as well as obstacles preventing their use. Multivariable Analysis was done using various tests¹ in SPSS. Overall, the participants responded very positively, particularly on issues such as storage of radiographs (85%) and records (89%), sharing patient records with other dentists (96%), and the potential for improving medical histories (98%). The main obstacles to uptake were software/hardware issues (57%) and the need for technical training (55%) and maintenance (65%). Dentists recognize the need for electronic patient records to optimize the quality of patient care. They generally have positive attitudes towards electronic records, and most agree that accessing and sharing them with other healthcare providers is useful. They identified several obstacles to uptake, such as the need for technical support and training. Our findings indicate the potential for widespread adoption of electronic patient records in Kuwait for improving patient support and healthcare delivery. The only limitations to the study were the failure of some participants to respond to specific questions.

Biography

Dr. Bashair Almutairi is Assistance Professor in the Medical Records Department, College of Health Sciences, at PAAET, Kuwait. She has been Graduated from Health Information Management Department, College of Allied Health, Kuwait University, with the specialties including Health Information Management. Later on she obtained her MSc. in Health Information System from University of Pittsburgh and her PhD in Health Information System from University College of London. Currently she is working as Chairman of Medical Records Department, College of Health Sciences, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Kuwait

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