

Barriers and Opportunities for Implementing Electronic Prescription Software in Public Libyan Hospitals

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Abstract : Electronic prescription software (e-prescribing) benefits patients and physicians by preventing handwriting errors and giving accurate prescriptions. E-prescribing allows prescriptions to be written and sent to pharmacies electronically instead of using handwritten notes. Significant factors that may affect the adoption of e-prescription systems include lacking technical support, financial resources to operate the systems, and change resistance from some clinicians, which have been identified as barriers to the implementation of e-prescription systems. This study aims to explore the trends and opinions of physicians and pharmacists about e-prescriptions and to identify the obstacles and benefits of the application of e-prescriptions in the health care system. A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted at three Libyan public hospitals. Data were collected through a self-constructed questionnaire to assess the opinions regarding potential constraining factors and benefits of implementing an e-prescribing system in hospitals. Data presented as mean, frequency distribution table, cross-tabulation, and bar charts. Data analysis was performed, and the results show that technical, financial, and organizational obstacles are the most important obstacles that prevent the application of e-prescribing systems in Libyan hospitals. In addition, there was awareness of the benefits of e-prescribing, especially reducing medication dispensing errors, and a desire of physicians and pharmacists to use electronic prescriptions.

Keywords : physicians, e-prescribing, health care system, pharmacists

Conference Title : ICBDDHI 2022 : International Conference on Biomedical Devices and Healthcare Informatics

Conference Location : Rome, Italy

Conference Dates : May 05-06, 2022