

Parents, Carers and Young Persons' Views Regarding Nursing 'Workarounds' Within Clinical Electronic Patient Record Systems

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Abstract : The use of digital systems in healthcare is now highly prevalent. With further advancement of technology, these systems will become increasingly utilised within the healthcare sector. Therefore understanding how clinicians (for example, doctors, nurses) interact with technology and digital systems is critical to making care safer. Seven members from the Parent/Carers' Research Advisory Group and the Young-Persons' Research Group at a healthcare Trust in London and three staff members contributed to an engagement workshop to assess the impact of digital systems on the practice of nurses. The group also advised on the viability of a research study to investigate this further. A wide range of issues within digital system implementation in healthcare were raised, such as 'workarounds', system's training, and upkeep and regulation of usage, which all emerged as early themes during the discussion. Further discussion focused on the subject of escalation of issues, 'workarounds', and problem solving. While challenging to implement, digital systems are hugely beneficial to healthcare providers. The workshop indicated that there is scope for investigation of the prevalence, nature, and escalation of 'workarounds', this was of key interest to the advisory group. An interesting concern of the group was their worry from a patient and parental perspective regarding how nurses might feel when needing to complete a 'workaround' during a busy shift. This is especially relevant if the reasons to complete the 'workaround' were outside the nurse's control, driven by clinical need and urgency of care. This showed the level of insight that those using healthcare services have into the reality of workflows of those providing care. Additionally, it reflects the desire for patients and families to understand more about the administration and methodology of their care. Future study should be dedicated to understanding why nurses deploy 'workarounds', as well as their perspective and experience of them and subsequent escalation through leadership hierarchies

Keywords : patient engagement/involvement, workarounds, medication-administration, digital systems

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