

Resolving Problems of Access Before Technological Concerns: American Healthcare

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Abstract: This paper looks at the prospects of introducing more massive changes in the technologies used in American health provision. But at the same time it focuses on possible issues and hindrances which must be reckoned with before detailing the former.

Key Terms: American health, healthcare, health records, technology



INTRODUCTION

There is no shortage of reports, accounts and critiques concerning the American HealthCare system. While it would not be too much of a leap to assert that the health care system of America is among the most competent and enviable in the world – this must not be too surprising for it brags one of the bigger economies in the world – it is still not without its won shortcoming and foibles. For one, the notorious Medicaid remains a bleep in the protracted, self-exalting speech of this health system, calling attention to its supreme quality.

In essence, the Medicaid merely acts as a safety net that can already excuse the more systemic solutions that can address the plight of the poor. Although we cannot doubt that these “programs” like the Medicaid ‘aid’ the poor, the point is that they only aid them and alleviate their bad condition and not exactly get them out of that plight (Wicks 2007, 164) Here, the health system and its programs is still under the sway of the neoliberal program that claims sufficiency for band-aid programs and policies that instead of addressing the roots of the problems, only seek to mollify the intensity of their damages. What is problematic about his so-called “safety nets” is that they do not provide long-term solutions for the people involved, in this case, the poor people

which are very copious in America. This is the more fundamental problem in America's health system that needs to be addressed.

SECTIONS

Before we can begin in seriously talking about technological advancement in the health care system, this basic condition needs to be rectified lest the structural inequality only be reinforced with the poorer sectors of the population unable to enjoy the benefits given by new technologies. One of the scathing proposition relevant to this is expressed by Lita Epstein in "6 Reasons Healthcare is So Expensive in the US." Here, her irony is at its peak when she avowed that "healthcare in the US costs about twice as much as it does in any other developed country." This is ironical because while US is indubitably one of the bigger economies in the world, it fails miserably in providing for one basic social service to its people – healthcare. This paradox becomes the starting ground for Epstein's elaborations about such sordid state.

EQUATIONS

In the last section called "The Bottom Line" Epstein outwardly calls out the government in the face of this situation. Epstein mentioned the "lack of political support for the government taking a larger role in controlling healthcare costs." However, one can pinpoint that Epstein's line of reasoning is confined in the way it obfuscates larger issues surrounding this dire situation of healthcare. In particular, she failed to mention the issue of funding and the abandonment of the American government of basic services including healthcare (Wicks 2007, 155). With grossly decreasing subsidy for healthcare, an adequate and decent rendition of this basic right becomes more and more unlikely. In the end, we can infer that a little slue will not hurt in order

to broaden the perspective of this article. The details and backup data are not lacking. It is just a matter of fine-tuning and sharpening the analysis offered by the essay.

But despite this murky state of things, technological advances are still increasing both in quantity and quality. For one, there are the novel features enabled by the Electronic Health Record (EHR). EHR is one of the better and more updated developments in the field of clinical and administrative prospects. The Electronic Healthcare Record enables the sleeker and neater organization of healthcare-related files and information that can pose certain advantages to their operation and supervision. For instance, in terms of clinical aspects, Electronic Healthcare Record facilitates all clinically related functions and activities because of the accessible and easily locatable data stored in a single record system. On the other hand, in terms of administrative concerns, the existence of an electronic healthcare record feature also eases the workload of the administrative staff because of the functions enabled by the software. In general, the Electronic healthcare Record system affords a lot of sizable advantages to companies and business operations that can make use of it and its features. The cost of this software is worth the investment if one looks at the bigger picture and prepares well for the returns of then investment in the future.

HELPFUL HINTS

In addition to this, information systems are becoming more secured with new technological features. Security in healthcare information systems must be tightly cherished because this involves not just personal but likewise confidential and sometimes, even sensitive data. Security must be properly in place in order to maintain the integrity of the data and to hinder them from being tarnished by falsity and inaccuracy (Armoni 2001, 103). In the realm of

clinical concerns, security in healthcare information systems ensures that the data contained in these systems accord with the objectives and directions of the clinical processes that are seen to be applied. Since some of the clinical cases are comprised of information that may be too confidential and thus must be tenaciously guarded to protect the right of the respective patients, security must be upheld to the utmost level.

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