Public Abstract

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Title:The Role of Electronic Health Records in Structuring Nursing Handoff Communication and Maintaining Situation Awareness

In healthcare institutions, work must continue 24 hours a day where a team of nurses is needed to provide around-the-clock patient care, and this process requires transfer of patient care responsibilities, a process known as a "handoff." The present study explored the role of electronic health records (EHRs) in structuring handoff communication and maintaining situation awareness among nurses during handoff.

Several theoretical frameworks and models were used to guide this study, which aims to assess the nurses' satisfaction with the EHRs during handoff, to explore the contents and the context of handoff, and identify the tools or materials the nurses use to in order to ensure the continuity of care and the delivery of quality handoff reports. Quantitative and qualitative approach was used to study the role of the EHRs, Al-Shifa, in structuring handoff communication and to explore handoff practices in Oman.

The findings of this study indicated that the nurses had positive perceptions about the usefulness and ease of use of EHRs for standardizing handoff communication. The study also revealed that nurses use a variety of tools to document, communicate, and coordinate patients' care reasonably during handoff. The use of electronic health records during handoff was reported to increase the availability to patients' medical records and ensure both the continuity of care and the delivery of quality handoff reports.