Health Information Systems

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HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**Introduction**

Health information technology (HIT) is key in securing, gathering, and sharing a massive amount of healthcare information about patients. According to Yen et al. (2017), health information technology is essential in empowering healthcare workers and enhancing transparency when providing care. Future health care outcomes can be achieved through data collection and preserving patient safety using accurate health records. Health information technology involves applying computer software and hardware, facilitating retrieval, sharing, communication, decision, storage, and usage of healthcare information. Accordingly, different health information technology is developed by different players such as CTU managers, healthcare c-suite managers, vendors, care providers, and departmental representatives. This paper will discuss the health information technology implementation, steering committee importance, and strategic plan that need to be incorporated.

**Health Information Technology Strategic Plan**

Health information technology is a significant element of improving patient safety since it enhances information privacy and enhances quality management. The following are strategic plans CTU managers will follow when implementing health information technology to improve information security and privacy and achieve quality management. First, the CTU manager will highlight the problem the intended technology is developed to resolve. During this step, the CTU manager will evaluate whether the new HIT will assist the healthcare organization in accomplishing data privacy and security in the short, medium, and long term. Secondly, the CTU manager will develop consensus, including professional, administrative, and managerial accord; this will support the realization of data privacy, security, and quality management goals (McCarthy et al., 2020). Therefore, the CTU manager needs to involve different professionals such as administrative staff, doctors, and nurses to influence them to own the HIT idea and become committed to achieving its objective. Thirdly the CTU manager will commit sufficient time and resources to consider different HIT options to known the appropriate system to choose. At this point, the CTU manager will research the system provider and network with diverse suppliers to know the firm's value. For example, the CTU manager should visit a healthcare organization that has implemented HIT for data security, privacy, and quality management for appraisal purposes. The next step is selecting the system that will meet the organization's data security and privacy requirements. The CTU manager will select an affordable HIT system that will fit both clinical practice and organizational purpose.

Furthermore, the CTU manager develops the appropriate plan that is tailored to the organization's HIT system. This will help the organization avoid running two parallel systems simultaneously, such as manual and electronic systems (McCarthy et al., 2020). Another step is developing the appropriate infrastructure like networks connection and software required to increase the workability of the selected HIT. Accordingly, proper infrastructure will help the users advance a positive attitude toward the HIT system. Subsequently, the organization will conduct training for workers to enhance their satisfaction when using the HIT system. Thus, the CTU manager should develop staff training sessions based on roles performed by each worker. Moreover, the next step is conducting a continuous system review to know any problem faced by HIT users for improvement. The CTU manager will also ensure that the system maintenance is performed regularly; this will ensure that the organization stays update on the HIT system (McCarthy et al., 2020). The last step is apprising the system to know whether it has transformed the healthcare organization by enhancing data security, privacy, and quality management.

**Importance Steering Committee**

The HIT steering committee is a group of individuals selected by the organization to oversee and implement the project. The HIT steering committee's importance includes making important decisions such as outsourcing experts to conduct training on the HIT system. At the same time, the HIT steering committee ensures that the organization's financial and strategic obligations are appropriately decided. Furthermore, the steering committee supports the organization to simplify complex strategic plans in different firms (Zhang et al., 2021). The HIT steering committee also plays an essential role in guiding the organization's executive on the HIT system. Therefore, the HIT steering committee adds value to the organization through budgeting and strategic planning; this facilitates project implementation success.

The steering committee should include representatives from the health information technology shareholders. These include the steering committee chair, who will lead the team, support planning, and performing a follow-up plan (Barrett, 2021). Secondly, the committee should also have several nurses and physicians to understand the implementation, acceptance, and optimal usage of the HIT system. Clinical staff must be included in the committee to determine whether the HIT will meet the function required during validation. The steering committee should also have an Information technology representative to know the scope of the system. Lastly, the committee should include a project manager who will allocate staffing resources need by the team.

**Elements of the Strategic Plan**

The CTU manager will incorporate the following strategic plan element to enhance HIT implementation plan success. First, the CTU manager will incorporate the statement of HIT goals and objectives, which will enable the implementation of the plan to have a specific timeframe and activities. This strategic element will guide the team to implement the HIT and influence them to perform their particular roles with commitment. Secondly, CTU manager will also incorporate HIT management and staffing to help them understand how HIT will secure organization data and privacy and improve the leadership quality. HIT management and staffing strategic plan elements will help the CTU manager organize practical staff training to minimize resistance. Lastly, the CTU should also incorporate a statement of resource required to support the organization executives to know the cost-benefit analysis of HIT implementation (Jasti et al., 2019). The CTU manager will determine the network and hardware upgrade cost, vendor training fee, and data storage and backup.

Some key departments that should be included in the HIT steering committee include the nursing department, which will help the committees develop a system nurses can use to share patient data and enhance care safely. The medical record department will help the committee know medical and non-medical records stored in the HIT. The IT department supports the committee on HIT vendor selection, training manual development, and system validation (Barrett, 2021). The clinical support service department should be include will enable the committee to integrate clinical and non-clinical functions in HIT. Administration department to support the committee in finance planning.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, an organization uses HIT to facilitate communication, enhance decision and information sharing among different care providers and staff. The importance of the HIT steeling committee is strategic planning and budgeting. The steering committee consists of nurses, information technology specialists, physicians, and clinical staff.

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