

Fulfillment of Finnish Information Strategy for Social and Health Care 2020 in light of research

In 2015 the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health together with the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities published an Information Strategy for Social and Health Care 2020. The goal of this strategy is to support both the renewal of social and health care and citizens' activity in the maintenance of their wellbeing by improving information management and increasing e-services. Another goal is to utilize data from various repositories in patient and customer work as well as in management and research.

According to the strategy social and health care professionals have access to information systems that support their work and its operating processes. Furthermore, social and health care professionals are able to use information systems and are indeed motivated to use them. Availability of information over the boundaries of health care and social care sectors is ensured with national solutions while taking due account of data protection.

The article "Smart systems for capable users? Nurses' experiences of patient information systems 2017" presents the results of a questionnaire intended for nurses. According to the results different information systems are used in their daily work although much remains to be improved in the information systems. Many risk factors regarding patient safety emerge in the results, such as recording the same information in many different places within the information systems and the use of paper in exchange of information between organizations even though regional information system and the Kanta archive are already in use. Regarding the technical functionality of the information systems the biggest challenges were the slowness of the systems and their stability. In addition, the nurses' involvement in the development and adoption of information systems and operating models is minimal and training for the use of the systems is insufficient.

Information system features that affect employees' stress and wellbeing at work are presented in the

article "Information Systems and well-being at work – healthcare professionals' experiences". According to the study technical problems, such as interruptions in use and slowness, logging in to multiple systems, and the simultaneous use of several systems, caused health care professionals stress. The lack of electronic patient information slowed down co-operation between different organizations. Incomplete documentation of medication caused stress to professionals and concern for patient safety. Also, there was not always enough quiet time for recording the patient information and problems with the usability of the information systems caused problems in recording the patient information. Factors that could improve the wellbeing of the employees at work include training and taking part in the development of the information systems.

Occupational health care professionals' experiences of using the Kanta archive are presented in the article "The use of the Kanta archive in Occupational Health Services". The occupational health care professionals considered the Kanta archive to be a good idea but their use of it is minimal. Retrieving the required information from the archive takes a lot of time and locating the required information is difficult. At times there are delays in the recording of patient information in the archive and so the dates of the patient visits in the archive do not necessarily correlate with the actual dates of the visits. Occupational health care professionals find it hard to get a comprehensive picture of the patient's situation from Kanta archive and do not think that the information in the archive is useful in their area of expertise.

One of the goals of the strategy is that the management and development of social and health care is based on information that is up to date, available and comparable, regionally, nationally and internationally. In addition to the information in the patient record systems information is also collected in different registers. Analyzing the material held in these registers yields information on the effectiveness of care.

According to the results presented in the article entitled “Treatment and Cost of Injuries of the Knee and Shoulder Girdle and Duration of Treatment and Sick Leave Based on the Insurance Company's Register Material” occupational hazards cause only a small proportion of serious injuries to the knee and shoulder girdle although the treatments for these traumas are costly and the sick leaves are long. Medically correct and early diagnoses and optimal standards of treatment as well as flexible and case-by-case actions on the part of the insurance companies are required to prevent the extra costs of treatments and days of sick leave.

Significant information about citizens' diseases can also be acquired by analyzing the information of the search engines of Internet. Finnish people make extensive use of the Internet and analyzing the search engine information can add to the understanding of the diseases of those citizens who do not necessarily use the health care services. The article “An infodemiological study using search engine query data to explore the temporal variations of depression in

Finland” presents the use of a new method, infodemiology, in research on depression. At the same time infodemiology offers new ways of utilizing information in mental health care. One of the advantages of this method is that the information can be gathered and analyzed in real time.

In light of the research presented above the fulfillment of the goals of the strategy requires development of both patient information systems and the Kanta archive so that users have functioning information systems at their disposal. Health care professionals should be included in the development of the information systems and sufficient training should be provided in the use of the systems. Information for leadership and development of the social and health care system can also be acquired from different registers, not forgetting the big data provided by the Internet..

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