SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SOFTWARE FOR THE ORIENTAL MEDICAL CLINIC

A Capstone Project

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ABSTRACT

Background: The United States government currently expects to have a standard for records within the Medicare system in 2006. While Oriental medicine is not currently part of this system, when the standard is finalized, it is expected to be adopted by all health insurance carriers as a de facto standard. If Oriental medical practitioners wish to accept insurance, the use of electronic medical record software will become necessary. In addition, large strides need to be made in investigating the efficacy of Oriental medicine. Having well designed electronic medical record software can be a database for data mining and aiding this investigation.

Purpose: To investigate the use of electronic medical record software within the Oriental medical clinic by evaluating current commercial-off-the-shelf software.

Methods: A two-phase process that includes (a) an initial survey of leaders in the profession using first stage of the modified Delphi technique designed to solicit criteria for evaluation and creation of criteria weightings, and (b) evaluation of current software using the criteria and weightings from Phase I.

Results: In Phase I, the importance of major criteria as a function of percentages breakdown as follows: security, 21.1%, ease of use 20.8%,

common technical framework, or the ability to communicate with other systems, was third at 17.2%, followed closely by specific features of the software with 16.8%. Finally, support was 15.2% and cost, 9%.

Phase II results show the average of all programs is 44.43 out of 100 with a standard deviation of 11.38. Overall, the scores were much higher for biomedical programs than OM specific programs.

Keywords: Electronic Health Records, Electronic Medical Records, Oriental medicine, software, data mining, practice management.