

Background and Objectives

Standard documentation of patient records is one of the critical aspects of high-quality health care and hospital accreditation. The records of treatment course data are the major guides for clinical decision making and providing timely interventions for patients. In addition, these documents are the most important frame of reference in forensic medicine to protect patient's legal rights. Moreover, the progress of medicine as an evidence-based science is dependent on the availability of accurate patient records to be used in for research and for deriving scientific hypotheses. All these facts point to medical records as extremely important pieces of documents documentation for providing safe and high quality care to patients, and in a broader perspective, developing a robust clinical process.

Despite its importance, medical records often carry deficiencies. Some of these deficiencies them include lack of identity information of about the author, incomplete coverage of patient care data, reporting errors mistakes, and their inappropriate correction of the mistakes. The most important factor leading to in low quality of patient records is the lack of commitment to standard criteria procedures in medical record documentation. Previous studies indicated that in Iran, many hospitals do not fully comply with the measures of standard documentation measures. The first step to address the problem is to identify the most problematic aspects of the phenomenon. Built on that, this brief report presents the results of a retrospective survey of degree of compliance with medical documentation standards in two hospitals of the Fars Province, situated in southern Iran.

Methods

This study was a retrospective-descriptive retrospective study. Our study population was medical files of patients admitted and discharged in two teaching hospitals of Jahrom University of Medical Sciences during the January to April of 2010-2010 and discharged within the same period. Four hundreds sets of medical documents were randomly selected from stock-history historical records, surgical reports, and physician orders records. Data was were collected using a checklist containing 15 measures of documentation-standard documentation & measures. The measures was-were selected from documentation-standard documentation measures recommended by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and those administered by Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME). The check lists' items were measured based on a three-point scale; a mean percentage of compliance with standards less than 50% was taken for-as "No-Non-Compliancecompliance", between 50% to 80%, "Moderate Compliance", and higher than 80%, "High Compliance". Data were analyzed using SPSS version 10.

Comment [MP2D8]:
می تواند حذف شود؟

Comment [MP2D9]:
Valid?
Not comfortable, what do you mean by this?

Comment [MP2D10]:
Comprehensible?
What do you mean by timely? Worthwhile?
What do you mean in Persian?

Comment [MP2D11]:
Optimization needed?
The point in D9 also applies here. (Double expression of the cause)

Comment [Reviewer12]: It is obvious that scientific hypotheses are either made, presented, proposed, or derived. So, no need for the previous word describing the action that is carried out on hypotheses.

Comment [MP2D13]:
I am not happy with it.
"To be used..." bear a causative meaning for "availability of accurate patient records", however, the causes was already presented by "progress of medicine is dependent on..."
It seems to me a redundant expression of the cause.

Comment [Reviewer14]: High is needed here. Sounds better.

Comment [MP2D15]: ... [1]

Comment [MP2D16]:
Any alternative? (To avoid repetition)

Comment [MP2D17]: OK?

Comment [MP2D18]: Valid?

Comment [MP2D19]: Valid?

Comment [Reviewer20]: It's not such a phenomenon you know. Consider ... [2]

Comment [MP2D21]: Valid?
Yes

Comment [Reviewer22]: No, But I know of historical records. Is that w ... [3]

Comment [MP2D23]:
Do you understand this compound?

Comment [MP2D24]:
منظور دستورات پزشکی است.

Comment [Reviewer25]: I will consider you data plural from now c ... [4]

Comment [Reviewer26]: Likert?