

# Implementing Electronic Health Records in the Kurdistan Region

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# Agenda

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- ❖ Objectives & Methodology.
  - ❖ The Terminology & Concept.
  - ❖ Key components of Electronic Health Records.
  - ❖ The benefits of EHR.
  - ❖ Disadvantages.
  - ❖ Barriers.
  - ❖ Recommendations.
  - ❖ Conclusion.
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# Objectives & Methodology

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- ❖ Objectives; provide an IT based system to re-form in the Health system in the Kurdistan Region.
  - ❖ Methodology; the goal of the presentation is to assess EHR as a tool to improve provision of knowledge and decision-making process that enhance:
    - Performance.
    - safety.
    - quality & continuity of care.
    - efficiency of patient care.
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# The Terminology & Concept.

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- ❑ Different terminologies such as;
    - Electronic Patient Record (EPR).
    - Computerized Patient Record (CPR).
    - Electronic Health Records (EHR).
  
  - ❖ Basically, the term means implementing the Information Technology in the Health sector.
  - ❖ EHR can be described as a larger umbrella that covers all Healthcare-IT systems that store healthcare records.
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# Definition of the EHR

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- ❖ The Electronic Health Record (EHR) is a longitudinal electronic record of patient health information generated by one or more encounters in any care delivery setting.

Included in this information are;

- patient demographics.
- problems.
- past medical history.
- immunizations.
- vital signs.
- Medications.
- laboratory data and radiology reports.
- progress notes.

Source: National Institute of Health, National Center for Research Resources(2006) .

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# Proportions rate for using EHR in some countries

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According to the Harvard School of Public Health and the Commonwealth Fund's International Conference Survey of Primary Care Physicians: The proportions of primary care physicians in the following countries which were using electronic medical records were:

- U.S. (17%),
- Canada (14%),
- Australia (25%),
- New Zealand (52%),
- U.K. (59%).

Source: International journal of Medical Informatics(2007)

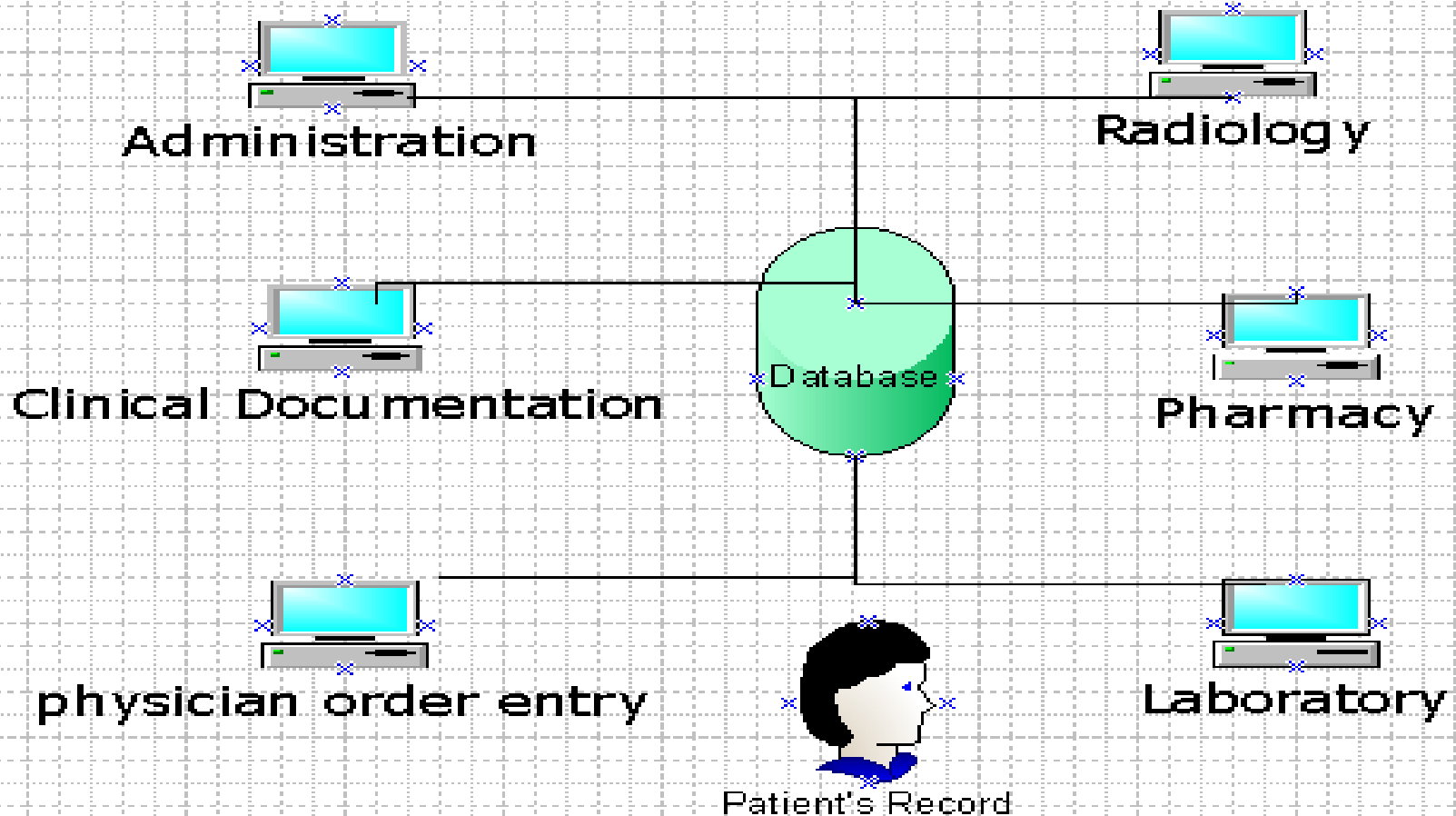
# Key components of Electronic Health Record

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The components can be categorized such as;

- ❑ Administration system components.
  - ❑ Laboratory system components.
  - ❑ Radiology system components.
  - ❑ Pharmacy system components.
  - ❑ Computerized physician order entry.
  - ❑ Clinical Documentation, Demographic and background of the patients.
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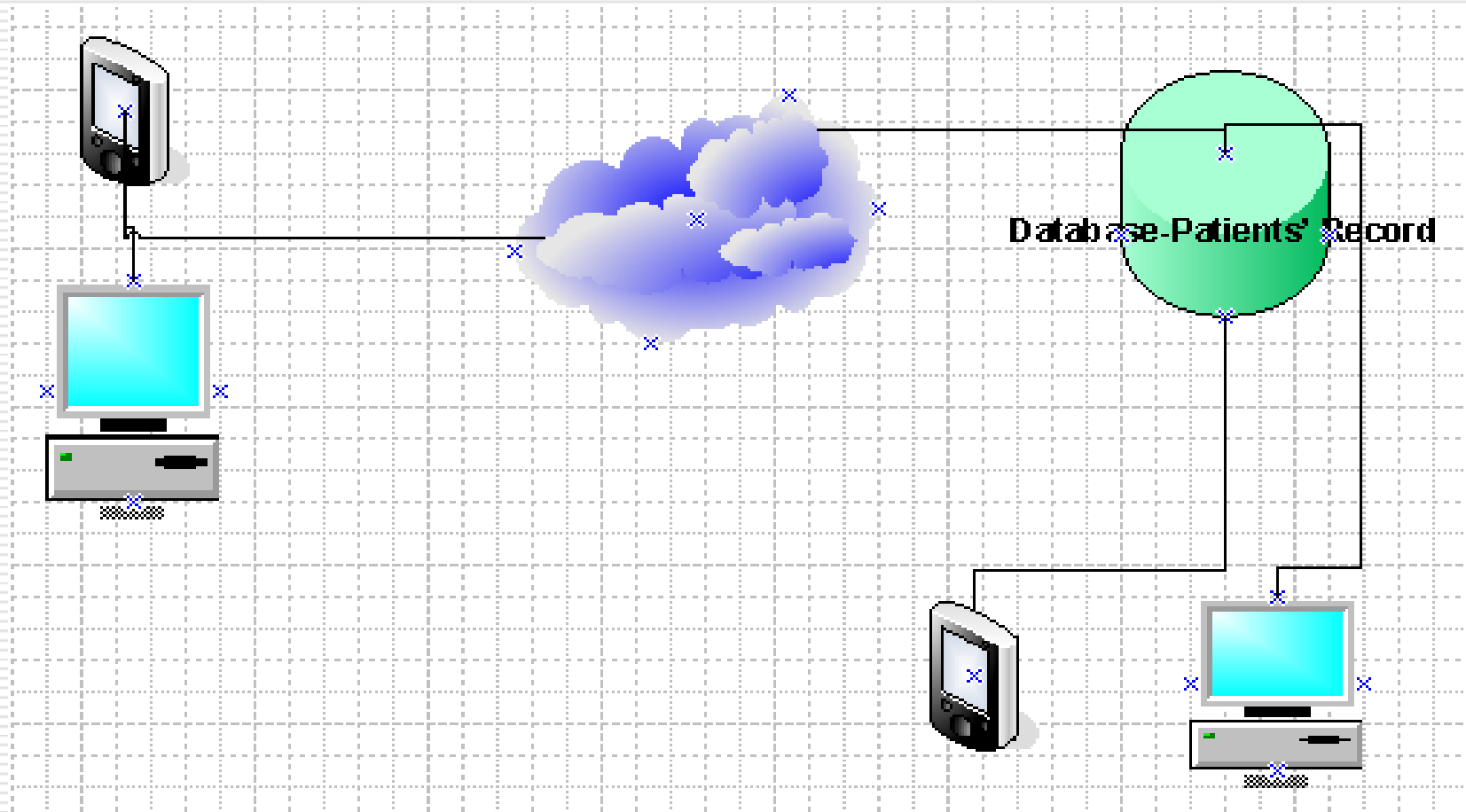
# Key components of EHR





# Accessing the patients' Record-IN, OUT of hospital (Entrant-Internet)

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# No more space, exhausted paper based



# The benefits of HER

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- Improved Efficiency and Lower Cost
    - More Efficient Messaging.
    - Less Time Waste Searching for Charts.
    - Access From Home.
    - More accurate billing information.
    - Lower Transcription Costs.
    - Better Use of Medical Assistance for History record.
    - Cost: Re-using Lab test, Radiology, Pharmacy, avoid printing image and documents.
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# The benefits cont.

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## □ Enhanced Patient Access & Communication

- Better Patient Access & Communication.
- Patient Phone Calls Recorded Electronically.
- Customized Patient Letters Easily Generated

### Tasks include:

- Messaging.
- Appointment Requests.
- Lab Result Notification.

Easily Access via Patient Web Portal

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# The benefits cont.

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- Easier Management of Quality Measures
    - Accuracy.
    - Reporting Quality Measures.
    - Generating Alerts for Clinical Care.
    - Surveys, Reporting, analyzing and broadcasting.
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# The benefits cont.

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- More Efficient Results Management
    - Efficient Results Management.
    - Receiving Labs via Interface.
    - Reviewing Documents Electronically.
  
  - Better Office Visit Documentation
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# The benefits cont.

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- ❑ Sending Documents to other Providers with Messaging.
  - ❑ Accessible from remote sites to many people at the same time (the data accessible to various specialties).
    - Access records from multiple locations within office.
  - ❑ Using EHR for the purpose of research: Analyzing the patients Record, prediction and customizing study in the e-health using artificial intelligent).
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# Disadvantages

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- ❑ High cost of computer & computer system and funding issues.
  - ❑ Resistance to computer technology and lack of computer literacy.
  - ❑ Providers need to be assured that the information they generate, will be available on request.
  - ❑ Quality of electronic healthcare information and accuracy of data entries.
  - ❑ Privacy and confidentiality.
    - Accessible to those authorized to access the data.
    - The data is recorded at the point of health care.
    - Completeness.
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# Barriers to implement an EHR system

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- Funding issue (such as; Start-up costs, software maintenance & software up-to-date etc.)
  - Coding System (ICD).
  - Difficulty in adding older records to an EHR system.
  - Long-term preservation and storage of records .
  - Synchronization of records.
  - Privacy & Legal barriers.
  - Cultural & Ethical Barriers. (resist change).
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# Barriers cont.

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- Inadequate number of physicians.
- Building equipment and electricity issues.

**Note:** More than 200 patients are being treated in the primary healthcare?

And the number of patients who visited one of the health centers in sulaimany in 2010 were about 7000.

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# Recommendations

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- ❖ Clear Policy & strategy plan for the EHR by Ministry of Health- KRG.
  - ❖ Establishing a committee to study and prepare EHR's proposals for the Ministry of Health. (Committee members should include: Ministry of health, Physicians, Universities & IT-specialists).
  - ❖ Index Patients Number.
  - ❖ Digital Identity Health Card (National census: health Number, Background Information etc.).
  - ❖ Specialized Center.
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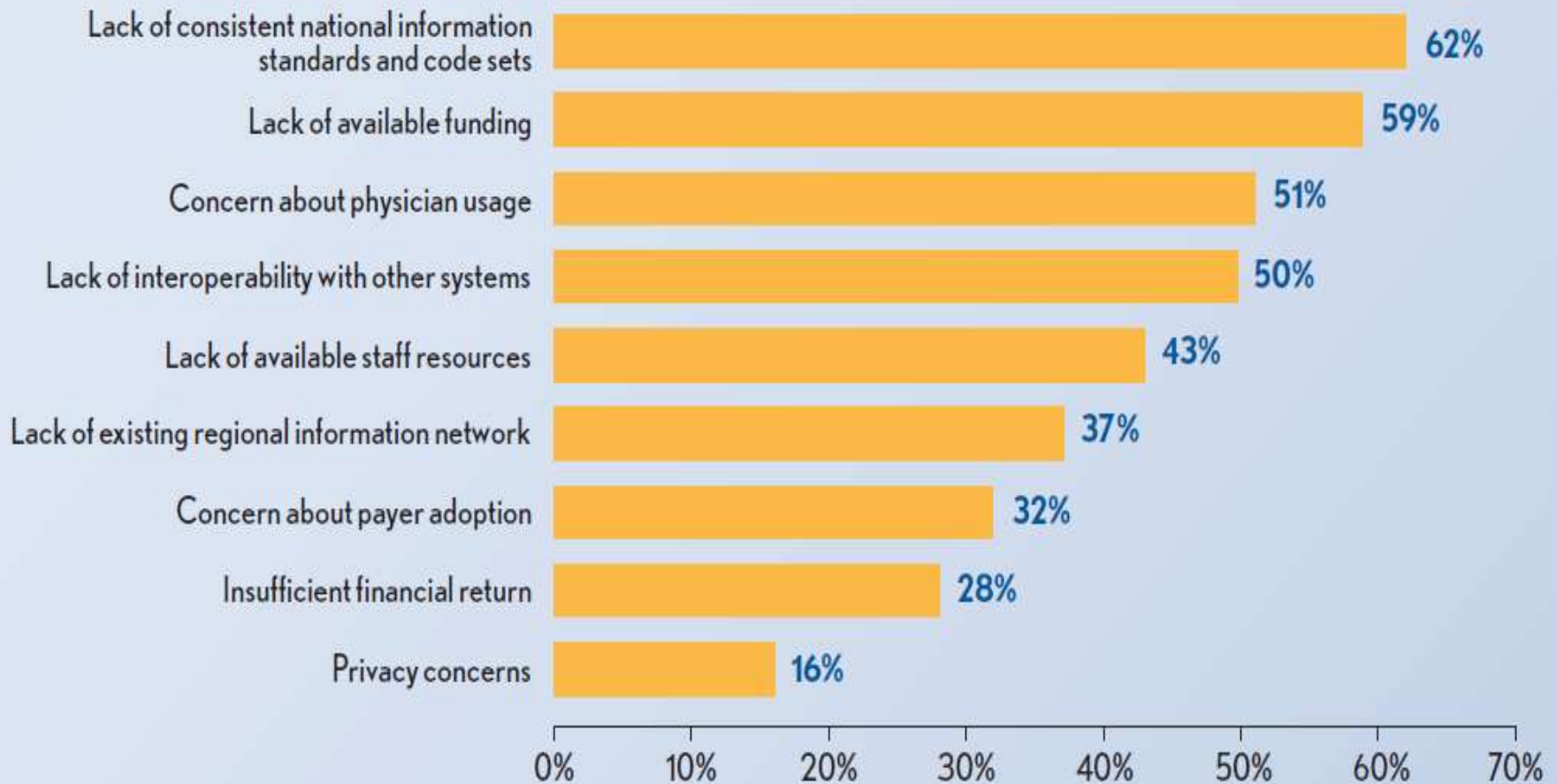
# Recommendations cont.

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- ❖ Unify Code and Patients' Hospital form throughout the Kurdistan Region in cooperation with the federal government.
  - ❖ Adopting legislation to protect the confidentiality of medical information of citizens (legislation proposal should propose to parliament).
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# Top Barriers to EHR Adoption in USA.

## Top Barriers to EHR Adoption



Source: Health Financial Management Association, (2006)

# conclusion

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Implementing EHR will face some barriers and challenges, but it provides the optimum solution for the health service.

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Thanks for your attention

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