Reviewer’s report

Title: Barriers to the Acceptance of Electronic Medical Records by Physicians
From Meta-analysis to Taxonomy and Interventions

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Reviewer: Glen Stream

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Review by Glen Stream, MD

This literature review based study regarding barriers to EMR acceptance by physicians is both timely and important. Despite significant urging by professional organizations, health plan payers, government, and even patients, adoption of EMRs by physicians has lagged behind adoption of information technology in other knowledge industries. Having a thorough understanding of those areas of physician resistance holds the potential to assist in overcoming that resistance and achieving greater adoption.

The authors describe a reasonably thorough literature search process into this research question while at the same time being very honest about the limitations of the methodology employed. Of the 20 studies evaluated, all but 3 are from the United States.

The proposed taxonomy of barriers to EMR adoption by physicians appears intuitive and useful. Financial barriers are the most commonly described but with the pending availability of HITECH stimulus funds to assist in overcoming this particular barrier, the focus in the US will change to is the amount of funding available adequate for the need. If they are adequate, the other barriers still remain and will warrant greater attention.

The authors do an excellent job of describing the increased challenges faced by physicians in smaller practices. The focus on EMR implementation as a change management challenge and the requirement for good project management are also consistent with my personal experience and discussions with others responsible for EMR implementations.

The only exception I would take with the authors is in their Category F: Legal. The author’s state, “there is a lack of clear security standards which can be followed by those who are involved in the use of EMRs”, and “there is a lack of clear security standards that could help ensure patient privacy and confidentiality.” (page 11) In the US, the HIPAA security and privacy rules do provide these standards and the EU has similar standards.

Overall, this is an excellent paper and a worthwhile addition to the literature on the subject.
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I consent to this review being passed on to the authors and posted with the published article.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests