Reviewer’s report

Title: Real-World Data and the Patient Perspective: The PROmise of Social Media?

Version: 0 Date: 22 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Miguel Mayer

Reviewer's report:

In this opinion article the authors reflect on a very important and topical issue related to the use of several sources of health information apart from the EHRs, which are the key source of health information, and in particular the relevance of linking social media to electronic medical records is mentioned.

The authors use the term "Electronic health care records" as the title of the main text section. Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Electronic Medical Records (EMR) are the most common terminology used (EHR is usually used in Europe and EMR in USA) but not EHCR.

As for the following sentence: "patient-reported data are not regularly collected or recorded as part of routine clinical care", in fact it's more than that, currently it is very odd to collect patient-reported data as part of routine clinical care.

It is mentioned that "...some healthcare systems have begun to allow patients' access to their EMR with the inclusion of functions which facilitate the recording of symptoms and progress in-between clinical visits...". Although the authors describe the Swedish rheumatology register, if there are several healthcare systems working on this, it is expected that more examples are mentioned (at least including 3-4 references related to this aspect).

Although this subject is very complex and it requires a lot of research and discussion, some reflections on ethical and legal aspects should be included in this article, this is an important point. In addition, it would have been relevant to comment some technical aspects, for instance, how should we manage the inclusion of social media information in EHRs?

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