Incremental Approach to Health Information Technology development of Allied Health

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Introduction
Allied Health professionals are key contributors in providing rehabilitation services. AH professionals in rehabilitation stream including Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapists, Clinical Psychologist, Medical Social Worker, Prosthetist and Orthotist, Podiatrist, Speech Therapist and Dietitian. In view of the multiple compositions of different professions in rehabilitation stream, the requirement for development of electronic documentation in Clinical Management System (CMS) is different. The notion to develop a framework for electronic documentation becomes vital with aim to cater for workflow; generic and specific information needs and optimal development speed to cover the eight professions is challenging.

Objectives
This paper depicts the philosophy of the incremental approach and how this approach can facilitate the development of Allied Health electronic documentation in a fast growing pace since 2010.

Methodology
The development of Incremental Approach take roots from detail study of workflow and information need of Allied Health professions. The typical workflow of all AH professionals entails: 1. The use of Assessment Forms for different clinical conditions when seeing a new patient; 2. Recording of patient progress in subsequent treatment sessions; 3. Recording of discharge information when the patient is ready to discharge. The essence of the approach is that development will begin from generic need of information that is common among all AH professions. Development will beginning from simple functions in the first place rather than focus on sophisticated features. Development to cater for individual professional need will then follow in later
phase.

**Result**

Allied Health Progress Note (AHPN) was introduced in 2010. The AHPN is a generic documentation template that is almost identical for the eight professions. The development of AHPN to the eight professions was completed in 2013. The AHPN provides a simple, generic template to cater for the mostly utilized electronic documentation. It can be shared to Electric Patient Record (ePR). In addition, it also enables the registration of inpatient workload as a side product of electronic documentation. Allied Health Discharge Summary was introduced since 2013. It provides a generic platform to capture discharge information of different conditions served by Allied Health. Now it covers 5 Allied Health professions. Specific Allied Health Assessment Form commenced development since 2014. These are forms designed to capture data of specific conditions treated by Allied Health. There will be five forms developed up till April 2015. Data from and AHPN and Discharge Summary can be retrieved from CDARS since 2014.