

Book: Managing Information in Healthcare: Concepts and Cases

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Reviewer:

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The field of Health Information is changing rapidly. The speed by which new information is emerging and new technology is born is exceeding ones' own imagination. This reality has made it extremely difficult for writers and academicians to "keep up" with the new trends without compromising other responsibilities and the depth of information gathered, analyzed and reported. In a very short time span we have had several technological advances. From Microprocessors to mobile devices to telecommunication, the field is swelling with new technology and new information. It is true that we are almost at the brink of an information overload especially as it related to healthcare and medical advances. Managing this vast amount of information requires adequate resources, know-how and the right mechanisms to do so. Current healthcare managers and future healthcare leaders are faced with the reality of that this information must be managed effectively and efficiently. Therefore, there is emerging a need for books on the management of information as well as the management of technology.

I believe this book took this new direction in the race of acquiring the most up-to-date information from the field and how to manage it effectively in healthcare. This book is the second for the author in the same field. However, this book is not dealing with the management of computers but the management of information as it is related to technology. It is comprised of nine chapters. Each chapter starts with a short introduction of what comes next in the chapter and what information is expected in the chapter. After the introduction of the topic of the chapter, it is followed by a practical case scenario from the field. Each case describes a scenario related to the topic(s) of that specific chapter and is followed by a list of questions for further discussions. The author then provides a commentary on the case adding his personal opinion and augments it with his experiences. This section would then continue to discuss the major concepts of the chapter topic and the related case. The chapter is credited at the end with a fairly considerable list of cited references. Those references are strong and mostly up-to-date. The chapter would then conclude with a selection of a notable article (and author) reprinted from a strong source related to the discussion topics on the chapter. The articles are clear and most enjoyable to read.

This system of an introduction, a case, a commentary, a discussion and an article re-print is followed throughout the nine chapters of the book.

As an academician, I myself follow this method of learning with my graduate students. My courses are full of case scenarios and discussions. This method of teaching has served my students and I very effectively and both the instructor and the student are rewarded with the breadth of information one can gather and learn in a single session. Case teaching is both enjoyable and practical and it gives the students practical and realistic examples that they can relate to when discussing topics. This book can certainly be used for this purpose. It can be used

in the classroom both as a source for the management of information and as a teaching tool in making theories applicable.

It is also noteworthy that the cases were easy to follow and they bring good examples of potential and realistic situations from the healthcare field. The discussion questions that follow each case can be very useful in making the main points of the topic simpler to understand and easier to follow.

This book will no doubt serve its purpose for aiding the healthcare professional or the future healthcare manager in understanding the sources of information, the methods of capturing it and the mechanism for taming it. The topics of the chapters and the related readings are extremely useful for professionals in the field, while the cases make this book more “teachable”.

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