ALIGN, SHARE RESPONSIBILITY AND COLLABORATE:
Potential considerations to aid in eHealth policy development

Nouran Ragaban  BSc (University of South Carolina), MPH (UoA)
PhD Candidate

With: Drs. Karen Day & Martin Orr

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Background
Many countries have established national eHealth initiatives to implement IT in healthcare.

<table>
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<th>National eHealth Initiatives</th>
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<td>Some places where they are happening</td>
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Why have we not seen more successful ICT implementation in healthcare, and what does policy have to do with success?
Method
Method

- Grounded Theory approach

- Health Information Management & Systems Society (HIMSS) Policy Summit, in Washington DC, USA.
5 individuals interviewed

- Attendees at the HIMSS policy summit (opportunistic sampling)

- These individuals work as either:
  - suppliers of ICT
  - Part of a research foundation involved in informing policy or
  - End-users of eHealth initiatives (i.e. clinicians)

Some exploratory discussions would be good…
Findings
## Findings

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<th>Theme</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Alignment</td>
<td>Align eHealth initiatives with overall health policy; eHealth is incorporated with other healthcare investments.</td>
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<td>Shared Responsibility</td>
<td>eHealth initiatives recognized as a government priority along all levels; implementation in a joint government direction</td>
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<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>Collaboration with other stakeholders, including clear division of tasks and technical and non-technical expectations</td>
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There needs to be alignment between the eHealth “business case and the greater healthcare system.”

A collaborative and consensus-driven approach “can help realize common goals.”

“No one person can provide insight” on all these issues.
Discussion & Conclusions
Discussion & Conclusions

• Many of the concepts presented here are not new

• Recognition that local and national eHealth initiatives cannot work independently of one another

• Healthcare reform is an integral part of ICT implementation

• Developing eHealth policy requires time, effort and technical and non-technical knowledge

• Reflecting back - *Why have we not seen more successful ICT implementation in healthcare, and what does policy have to do with success?*
Thank you!

n.ragaban@auckland.ac.nz

NouranARagaban

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References


- S. Khoja, H. Durrani, P. Nayani, A. Fahim, Scope of policy issues in eHealth: Results from a structured literature review, *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 14 (2012), e34-60.


