Call for Papers for the Special Issue of Health Informatics Journal on Patient Safety

Guest Editors

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Background

Health information technology (HIT) and health informatics approaches can contribute to enhancing patient safety and quality of care, for example by reducing prescribing errors and by providing in-depth analysis of a wide range of operational performance indicators. However, there have been frequent reports about potential unintended consequences of the use of HIT that might introduce new risks and negatively affect patient safety.

The field is evolving at an exceptional pace, and there are many initiatives designed to draw on HIT to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of care. In addition to large-scale systems, such as electronic health records, we are now also seeing many smaller innovations coming to market, in particular around mobile applications and wearable health technologies. Furthermore, the large amounts of data generated from electronic health records and other sources could provide input to analytics approaches that generate novel insights for improving the safety and quality of care. As a result, the way care is delivered is being transformed in important ways as both system-wide and local HIT initiatives are implemented.

The aim of this special issue is to present the latest developments studying the impact of HIT and health informatics approaches on patient safety (positive and negative), and to identify research and policy challenges around implementation, adoption and regulation that need to be addressed in the future. We welcome in particular original contributions that (a) synthesise the existing knowledge of the impact of HIT and health informatics on patient safety in specific domains; (b) provide empirical evidence on the effects on patient safety of the use of emerging technologies or of the application of health informatics approaches; and (c) explore theoretical concepts relating to design, regulatory, ethical and legal frameworks for ensuring the safe use of HIT.

Topic areas include, but are not limited to:

- Evidence synthesis of HIT and patient safety focusing on specific aspects (e.g. prescribing errors), domains (e.g. long-term conditions) or technologies (e.g. electronic health records)
- Empirical studies analysing the impact of the use of emerging health technologies on patient safety (e.g. wearable health technology, robotics, medical apps)
• Empirical studies evaluating big data and health informatics approaches to improve patient safety (e.g. intelligent gathering and use of data, embedded learning systems)
• Theoretical analysis of design, regulatory, ethical and legal frameworks for ensuring safety of HIT, including analysis of transferability across international health systems
• Critical analysis of new models for providing evidence about the impact of HIT, which are suited to account for the fast evolution of technology and the greater variability that comes with patient choice

Submission Method:

Please submit an abstract summarising your intended contributions to the guest editors by 31st March 2018.

Only original manuscripts can be submitted, according to the “Manuscript Submission Guidelines” published on the Health Informatics Journal website https://in.sagepub.com/en-in/sas/journal/health-informatics-journal#submission-guidelines. Health Informatics Journal is hosted on SAGE Track, a web based online submission and peer review system powered by ScholarOne™ Manuscripts. Authors should visit http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/hij to login and submit their articles online. Please select Article Type “SI: PATIENT SAFETY” in Health Informatics Journal.

Please mention the name of the Special Issue in your cover letter. All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed in accordance with the established policies and procedures of the journal. The final papers will be selected for publication depending on the results of the peer review process and the reviews of the Guest Editors and Editor-in-Chief.

Timeline of Production:

• Abstracts (100 – 150 words) summarising intended contributions to be sent to Guest Editors: 31st March 2018
• Deadline for submission of full papers: 31st May 2018
• Final manuscripts due: 31st October 2018
• Planned publication (Online First): February 2019

Queries:

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