**Introduction to Health Informatics**

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**INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH INFORMATICS**

Technology advancement is changing the pattern of life. For instance, the use of e-mail between physicians and patients is an emerging trend. However, it requires some guidance while using. The issue of privacy and security can be raised therefore proper guidance is necessary for both physicians and patients. The email should be sent only from yale-managed computer or smartphones. Information should be limited that is necessary for billing or clinical purpose. The unencrypted email should be used to avoid security or privacy risks. In addition, double check before sending the email avoids the sharing of email to the wrong person (February & 2008, n.d.).

Physicians use email communication with patients only when there is the willingness of online communication between both the sides. Different types of email can be used by physicians and patients. Physicians mostly use online communication to send the email about the outcome of their patients, health service performance and provide guidance to the long-distance patient who cannot visit the physician easily. Patients mostly use online communication to send the email about the billing, service acceptability, service efficiency, and to ask the query about the medicine or other medicolegal concerns.

Current studies indicate that physicians and patients show less willingness to online communication although it is time and cost saving. The reason behind the less use of online communication is the security measure. Therefore, proper protection should be made to develop the acceptance of the technology from both sides. Different measures can be used to protect the information that is the use of encrypted email. Encrypted email secures the communication between patient and physician only. HIPAA or health insurance portability and accountability act is another measure to secure personal and healthcare information. The main purpose of the law is to make easier to have health insurance for everyone. It also helps the healthcare industry to manage the administrative costs. It keeps the security rule, enforcement rule, privacy rule, code set rules, and unique identifier rule to make the online communication secure (“Guidance on the Use of Email Containing PHI | Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act,” n.d.).

**References**

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