

MedINS

result of cooperation for health care improvement in Romania



Abstract:

The paper presents the results of the work of a team of engineers from the Faculty of Automation and Computers and general practitioners from the Institute of Public Health in the domain of medical informatics, members of the Romanian Society of Family Medicine/General Medicine. The goal is to introduce and develop information technology for the improvement of quality of the health care activity in Romania. The frame was the ICPC 2000 Project and as a real world application resulted MedINS, as the informatic component of the project.

Vasile STOICU-TIVADAR¹
Lăcrămioara STOICU-TIVADAR¹
Marius MĂRGINEAN²

1. Faculty of Automation and Computers, Bd. V. Pârvan 2, 1900 Timisoara, Romania
2. Institute of Public Health, Bd. V. Babes 16-18, 1900 Timisoara, Romania



The Romanian Society of Family Medicine/General Medicine needs valid data for:

- improvement of the management of primary health care
- evidence based negotiations with Insurance House and Ministry of Health
- update of the curricula for vocational, postgraduate and continue medical education for Family Medicine
- specific research in primary care

ICPC 2000 Project

This paper presents several aspects of implementation of this sentinel project, especially its informatic component (the application MedINS), useful in the improvement of Romanian health care.

The ICPC 2000 Project

Aim: to produce quality information from primary care services.

Objectives:

- to create a national sentinel dispensaries network (cover around 1% population)
- to introduce the use of international medical data classification
- to create training support for family doctors activity
- to train 100 GPs working in this network
- to stimulate research
- to offer to policy makers valid and continuous data from primary care
- to produce the development of dedicated software, user-friendly for GP practice (MedINS)

MedINS - the informatic component of the project

MedINS is an integrated environment to be used in GP's consulting rooms, connected to a specific INTERNET server.

MedINS is useful in

- patient data, consultations and scheduling organization in a specific way familiar for the general practitioners (resembling the classical paper registration) but with many facilities which determines an easier retrieving and processing of information
- assisted activity by access at medical information from quick access lists with many possibilities to retrieve information, resulting in easy coding process
- passing by routine work including reports and adding the facility to send them by electronic mail, simplifying the activity
- quick document generation
- data security

MedINS is written in Visual Basic 6 and is running under Windows 95/98. The databases are Access coded and password protected.

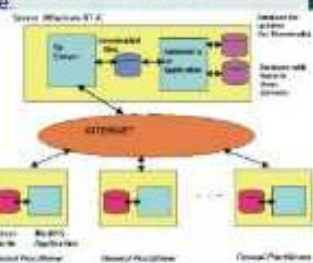
MedINS Components:

The Administrator Application allows:

- the transfer of the reports from the ftp directory to the report database, in order to be processed with standard statistical processors (like SPSS program)
- to interface the application to the User, for updating the files for ftp directory
- to administrate the list of GPs and their accounts

The GPs consulting room component is focused on the patient record. This is structured in a way that allows:

- immediate access to any kind of information related to a patient, by using a graphical, intuitive interface, with general information (including alarms set by the GP)
- consulting and treatments
- generating reports
- connecting to the server component
- customizing etc.



Implementation, expected results, conclusions

Data will be collected every month to the central database at the Family Medicine Department of the Institute of Public Health Timisoara. The statistical analysis of data will be made using SPSS and EPI INFO 2000 programs by a research team.

The software developed under the frame of the project is user-friendly, client-centred, especially designed for the specific needs of the GPs in a manner that allows the transition from paper records to computer records with a minimum specialisation of the GPs. This software allows an easy centralisation of the medical care specific information. The system is also appropriate to support the medical care reform in Romania, to help the information collecting from the Health Insurance System. The system is under implementation.