

Holistic View on Electronic Healthcare

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Healthcare is an information intensive sector, generating huge volumes of data from hospitals, primary care, clinics, surgeries and laboratories. Information can be extracted from large databases, using nowadays information technologies, and to bring a new knowledge. However, in healthcare sector is working highly educated and knowledgeable personnel, providing the knowledge to processes of medical treatment and healthcare management. The inability to share information across systems and between care organizations is just one of the major obstacles towards quality, efficiency, security and cost-effectiveness of healthcare.

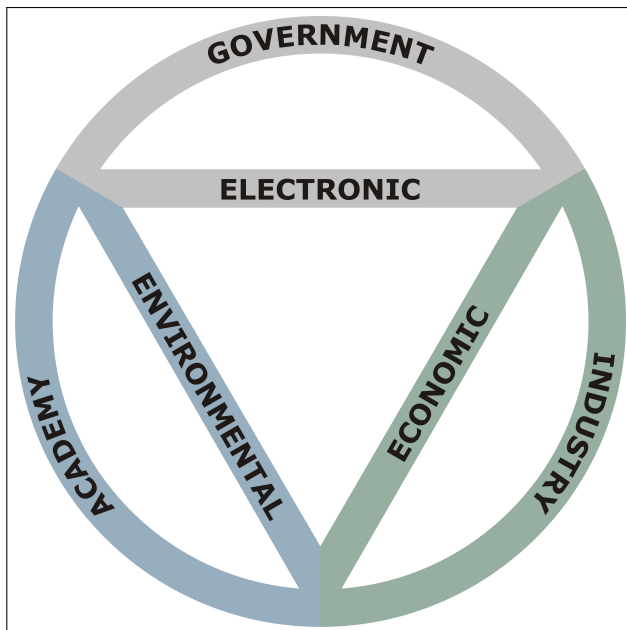


Figure 1: Scheme of holistic electronic healthcare.

There are many reasons for this state, including under-investment in information technologies, lack of political will, fragmented markets with inadequate development of new systems, lack of standards, complexity of medical data, data entry problems, security and confidentiality. The gap be-

tween the demand for healthcare from an increasingly well-informed citizens and the ability of the government and healthcare organizations to meet this demand is widening all the time.

All these problems in electronic healthcare can be successfully overcome by a holistic approach. Good cooperation among Government, Industry and Academia is a basic prerequisite for building modern healthcare supported by three basic components electronic, economic and environmental [1]. The scheme of holistic electronic healthcare is displayed on Figure 1.

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