Health Information Systems

Glossary

Module 1. Introduction to HIS

Boolean search: Using the words AND, OR, NOT to combine words to limit, broaden, or define a search.

Computer literacy: The knowledge of computer hardware and software applications (such as Microsoft Excel or Windows); the actual ability to operate a computer and to understand the how different applications work together.

Data: A thing that has no meaningful relationship to anything else.

Health Information Systems (HIS): Combine various data to create information about health status, health care, provision, and use of services and health impact.

Health system: All organizations, institutions, and resources devoted to producing actions whose primary intent is to improve health.

Information: An additional description, definition, or perspective that makes meaning of data.

Information literacy: The ability to recognize your information needs and then access, evaluate, organize, and use information from a variety of sources.

Information systems literacy: The knowledge of how information systems work.

Inputs: Resources that go into a health information system.

Knowledge: Facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education.

Outputs: Results such as reports and graphs.

Processes: Data management methods.

System: A combination of elements connected together in an organized way to produce outputs.

Wisdom: Combining data, information, knowledge, and expertise.

Module 2. HIS Classification and Architecture

Centralized system: A system has a single database.

Closed system: A system with no interaction with the external environment.

Complex system: A system that has many elements that are highly related and interconnected.

De-centralized system: A system with multiple databases or repositories that collect data from many sources.

Dynamic system: A system that is rapidly and consistently changing.

Federated system: A system that shares data from individual systems and brings those data and information into a shared data warehouse.

Freeware: Software that is free of charge.

Logic models: A graphical depiction of the logical relationships between the resources, activities, outputs, and outcomes of a program or system.

Open source: Software which has the original source code freely available and may be redistributed and modified.

Open system: A system that can interact with other individual, open systems in the environment.

Permanent system: A system that is in place for a relatively long period of time.

Proprietary system: A system that is owned and, usually, can only be changed by the owner or vendor.

Public system: A system that is not owned by a vendor and there is no requirement to pay to use the system.

Simple system: A system that has few components and the interactions are in one direction and uninterrupted.

Stable system: A system that changes little over time.

Stand-alone system: a single workstation not connected to other systems and is used by one person at a time.

Temporary system: A system that is in place for a short time.

Web-based system: A system where users access data through software that uses web technologies (such has HTTP).

Module 3. HIS: Data Management

Aggregating: To group data together.

Collate: To gather together information from different sources.

Data management: The development, execution, and supervision of plans, policies, programs, and practices that control, protect, deliver, and enhance the value of data and information assets.

Disaggregating: To separate data.

Primary source data: Data directly from the source.

Qualitative data: Data that can't be measured by numbers.

Quantitative data: Data that are numerical.

Query: A question we ask the database to get the information we need.

Secondary source data: Data that has already been collected.

Stratified data: Dividing data into smaller groups.