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EHR Adoption and Patient Safety: The Role of EHR and Health Care Provider Characteristics

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ABSTRACT

Health care providers are increasingly adopting EHR and expecting EHR to reduce medical errors and improve patient safety. However, the findings on the effect of EHR on patient safety have been mixed. In this paper, we investigate the factors moderating the relationship between EHR and patient safety. More specifically, we propose that EHR characteristics, including EHR certification, usability and privacy protection mechanism, and health care provider characteristics, including IT experience, stage of adoption, length of usage, and organization size, could influence the actual impact of EHR on patient safety.

Keywords

EHR, Patient Safety, Health IT, IT adoption