

Chien-Tsai Liu^{a,c} PhD
Pai-Jung Huang^a MD
Ann-Ging Long^a BS
Kuo-Ching Tsai^b MS
Shih-Sung Kuo^b MD, PhD

^a Graduate Institute of Medical

Informatics, Taipei Medical College

^b Department of Health, Executive Yuan

^c Department of Information Systems,
TMC- Wanfang Hospital and Taipei
Medical College

A Web-based Referral Information System

Key Words

Electronic patient care records
Referral information system
Extended markup language
Medical records exchange

ABSTRACT

Currently, summaries of medical records of referrals are paper based in Taiwan. However, the paper-based referral system is usually time consuming and incomplete. Therefore, a complete and timely computer-aided medical care summary is needed to help physicians make appropriate referral treatment plans and to facilitate patient care records being shared among hospitals or healthcare providers. Also, this form of medical care summary is essential not only for delivering quality of medical care services, but also in saving medical expenses.

The purposes of this study were two fold. First, to examine the feasibility of the World Wide Web technology. Second, to develop a web-based referral information system so that patient care records can be shared and exchanged among affiliated hospitals over the Internet. More importantly, the system can not only facilitate the referral process, but also maintain the integrity of a patient's medical records among hospitals. The results of this study were adopted by the Department of Health, Taipei City Government for use among city hospitals. The referral system in affiliated hospitals between different ranks is also enforced.

(2000, volume 2, p 39-50)

INTRODUCTION

Two systems, the ordinary referral system and an emergency medical care network system, are used to

support patients in acquiring appropriate medical care in Taiwan.^{1,2} In the referral system, hospitals are ranked based on their capacities and capabilities to provide quality of health care. Hospitals are ranked on

N. Taipei J. Med.

Received: December 15, 1999

Accepted: January 28, 2000

Correspondence: Dr. Chien-Tsai Liu

Department of Information Systems, TMC- Wanfang Hospital and Taipei
Medical College, No. 111, Sec 3, Hsinlung Road, Taipei 116, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Tel: 886-2-29307930 ext. 8910; Fax: 886-2-29334823

E-mail: ctiu@tmc.edu.tw