Health Information Governance

Student’s Name

Institution Affiliation

Course

Professor

Date

**Health Information Governance**

Health information governance comprises the policies, structures, and the required procedures established and adhered to by healthcare facilities, medical insurance companies, and healthcare providers to collect, secure, organize and utilize data. Some of the health information governance components comprise; data privacy, information security, regulatory compliance, data governance, content management, and Internet technology governance. Data privacy includes the identification and protection of patient data. Some of the information that requires privacy includes medical records of patients, social security, and credit card numbers (Armautah, 2016). For example, individuals can automate electronic lockouts and provide lockable cabinets and private rooms to ensure privacy to patient information. Privacy guarantees that patient information is well protected, enhancing trust within the healthcare facility and reliability in the information system.

On the other hand, the information security component focuses on controlling access to the patients’ information and providing security to confidential communications and information (Armautah, 2016). For example, healthcare organizations can embrace a data-centric security strategy, set strict permissions for the cloud, and restrict individuals from accessing data rooms and exercise vigilance for patch management as approaches to ensure data security. This component helps healthcare facilities address document encryption, information rights management, digital signatures, and data loss prevention. The component of regulatory compliance ensures that healthcare facilities, medical insurance companies, and healthcare providers adhere to laws, policies, specifications, and standards guiding the healthcare industry (Armautah, 2016). Data governance, also referred to as data integrity, is a component that ensures that the data collected is accurate, unique, and authentic. This component always deals with data cleansing to get rid of inaccuracies and redundant data. It also ensures that reports, conclusions, and analyses get compiled based on reliable, trusted, clean data. Content management is another component that focuses on storage and access to electronic data and information. For example, critical patient information gets stored in secure systems accessible to only relevant individuals. Another component of health information governance is IT governance. Health care facilities aim at integrating technology in their information systems to enhance the efficiency, accountability, and quality of their service provision (Armautah, 2016). For example, healthcare organizations have established software in computers such as electronic health records (HER), electronic medical records (EMR), and many others to effectively manage patients and their information. Viable components of health information governance help in decision-making, patient satisfaction, improve service delivery and enhance good communication and cooperation among healthcare workers. Accountability, integrity, and transparency get enhanced when organizations implement information governance.

**Importance of Communication and Information Governance**

Communication plays a significant role in an organization by establishing a foundation for decision-making and planning. Managers, employees, and stakeholders use communication to initiate plans and formulate decisions for the success of an institution. Communication also facilitates coordination, increases managerial efficiency, and promotes cooperation, harmony, and peace among employees. Information governance helps organizations and individuals work within the legal frameworks and adhere to rules and regulations. Private or public organizations need to implement information governance practices by setting standards of acquisition, usage, and protection of information and data to enhance the management of institutions (ERMA, 2021). Information governance also ensures that organizations get protected from cyber-crime and breach of data through internet malpractices. Leaders Initiating plans and strategies to protect data and information ensures that the information within the organization gets the required security. Protecting data and information relating to customers, patients and employees increases trust and boosts the image of employers as serious people who care about their clients and employees.

**Reference**

Armautah (2016). Components of Information Governance. Retrieved from <http://armautah.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Components-of-Information-Governance-handout-2015-09-17.pdf>

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