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Disease Management Systems And Their Implications For Outcomes.

Abstract

Disease management systems have substantial potential for improving both clinical outcomes and efficiency of whole health systems. They take a population based approach using an internet infrastructure that allows the management of the patient through the continuum of care using encrypted medical record systems. These systems allow the integration of public and private sector delivery and provide unique opportunities for outcome systems at an individual disease level. They facilitate participation of both consumers and carers and improve service delivery for the rural and remote. They provide a powerful evidence based medical machine and a continuous research system that can allow health and economic modelling on emerging trends.

Disease management systems provide a methodology for large scale quality systems to provide improvements with cross system benchmarking. These systems improve the potential for improvement in quality and safety and the implementation of clinical pathways and protocols into wider practice. They also provide unique opportunities for the incorporation of health promotion and prevention activities in treatment.

The disease management literature will be reviewed, as will the progress of trials.

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