

Week 4: RUA: We Can, But Dare We

Chamberlain University

NR 360: Information Systems in Healthcare

Date Submitted

We Can But Dare We

Introduction

Healthcare technology has revolutionized patient care, transforming how healthcare providers diagnose, treat, and monitor patients. Electronic Health Records (EHR), computerized provider order entry systems (CPOE), and automated medication dispensing systems have become commonplace in modern healthcare facilities, promising to improve efficiency, reduce errors, and enhance patient outcomes. However, the question remains: just because we can implement these technologies, dare we do so without proper safeguards, training, and oversight? This paper argues that while healthcare technology offers tremendous benefits, its implementation must be accompanied by robust safety measures, comprehensive training programs, and continuous monitoring to mitigate potential risks. As healthcare becomes increasingly dependent on technology, we must carefully balance technological advancement with patient safety, particularly in medication administration—where errors can have devastating consequences for patients and providers alike.

HIPAA, Legal, and Regulatory Discussion

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 established national standards for protecting sensitive patient health information from disclosure without patient consent or knowledge. As technology in healthcare expands, HIPAA compliance becomes increasingly complex. Electronic health records and automated medication systems must maintain confidentiality, integrity, and availability of patient information while facilitating care delivery (Office for Civil Rights, 2023). Under HIPAA's Security Rule, healthcare organizations must implement technical safeguards, including access controls, audit controls, and transmission security mechanisms to protect electronic protected health information (ePHI).