Clinicians use some two million pieces of information to manage every patient. Existing information tools are not adequate for answering the questions that arise: textbooks are out of date, and “the signal to noise” ratio of journals is too low for them to be useful in daily practice. Often clinicians are asking not simply for information but for decision support, guidance, affirmation and feedback. The best information sources provide relevant, valid material that can be accessed quickly and with minimal effort. Access to information tools that are electronic, portable, fast, easy to use is needed, connected to both a valid database of medical knowledge and the patient record and serves the needs of patients as well as health services. Systems need to operate between public and private service locations to be truly effective and safe. Despite the value of information systems many eHealth implementations haven’t met the expectations of clinical staff or delivered the benefits promised. Health organisations don’t define clearly what it is they want, or know how to describe their specifications for new systems and older health workspaces were not built to easily accommodate technology. While clinicians are experts in their own field there is little time to resolve the day to day system issues while getting on with the business of health care. Computer systems that have been developed to help doctors are not yet widely used in Australia however all jurisdictions are working towards this. This presentation will share the plans and problems found in working toward a digital hospital for SCHN.
How to get what you need from eHealth Systems
Joint Electrical Institutions Sydney - EA, IEEE, IET

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Ms Cheryl McCullagh
Cheryl has worked in Health since 1991, including roles as a frontline clinician, research, education and senior management, in adult and paediatric specialist referral hospitals in Adelaide and Sydney, Australia. She has a Diploma in Applied Science, a Bachelor of Nursing, with post graduate qualifications in Paediatric palliative care and a Masters of Health Service Management.
Cheryl moved from Adelaide in 2001 from a background in Paediatric Oncology Services, to take up senior management roles at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, NSW. She worked in several roles before accepting the position of Medical Program Chair in April 2004, followed by the role of Director of Clinical Operations in May 2007. In 2011, with the formation of The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN), she started a new role as Executive Director of Clinical Integration for SCHN. Her key responsibilities include ICT for Clinical Integration in clinical data collection, clinical support systems, health records, national reporting requirements, Activity Based Funding (ABF) implementation, and Efficiency and Revenue sustainability.
Cheryl is focused on developing people and the processes that support their work; to create models which address fair resource allocation, efficiency, equitable access, while supporting innovation in Health services.

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