Electronic Health Records and Electronic Health Archives: An Archival Examination of the ISO Health Informatics Standards

GRAs: He Yang & Xuenan Zhang
PI: Prof. Sherry L. Xie; Grant No.: 15XNL032
iSchool@Renmin University, Beijing, China

I. Motive
93 standards and 30 technical reports of health informatics by the International Organization on Standardization (ISO) facilitating “capture, interchange and use of health-related data, information, and knowledge to support and enable all aspects of the health system” also address:
- Electronic health record (EHR)
- eArchiving process

Q1: Do these standards reflect what is the focus of the records field??
Q2: Are there any concerns that are critical to the health industry but overlooked by the records field?

- The similarities or differences between what is shaped by these standards and what is theorized and practiced in the records management field

II. Methods

2-step analysis

1st Stage Analysis
- ISO/HL7 10781 - Electronic Health Record System Functional Model, Release 2

2nd Stage Analysis
- Integrated business process
- Integrated system design
- Streamlined managerial framework

Expected Outcomes

III. Preliminary findings

Conceptual comparison

ISO 15489-1 record(s) information created, received and maintained as evidence and as an asset by an organization or person, in pursuit of legal obligations or in the transaction of business.

ISO/TS 21547 EHR

comprehensive, structured set of clinical, demographic, environmental, social and financial data and information in electronic form, documenting the healthcare given to a single individual.

At the conceptual level, the definition of record(s) in ISO 15489-1 covers the definition of EHR in ISO/TS 21547.

Major Functionality Comparison

Examples:
- ISO 15489-1 9.4 & ISO 16175-3 3.1.4 Records classification
- ISO/TS 21547 3.2.26 Secure classification
- ISO 16175-3 3.4 Retaining and disposing of records as required
- ISO/TS 21547 10.4.1 The EHR-archive must preserve information(…retention time…)
- ISO 15489-1 9.9 Disposition & ISO 16175-3 2.4.1 Disposing of records
- ISO/TS 21547 10.3.6 Deletion of the HER

The core concerns about functionality are covered in all listed standards. However, ISO 15489-1 and ISO 16175-3 focus on high-level generalization, while ISO/TS 21547 and ISO/HL7 10781 is specific to the business activities in health industry.

Conclusion
1. In the field of record or archival science, standards, policies and regulations can be formulated more specifically. Therefore they can align with the standards for records management in a specific industry in a more relevant, effective and systematic way.
2. The result of the 2nd stage analysis could facilitate system integration and professional cooperation.