

Poster Title

Real time hospital beds data in hand – Hospital Bed Management Dashboard

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Poster Abstracts (max 400 words)

Facing the large service population through ages, bed management is one of the key elements in daily operation of Hong Kong public hospitals and thus, real-time monitoring on the bed availability becomes more and more important. In recent years, Information Technology Department (ITD) of the Hospital Authority (HA) had developed various reports on bed occupancies to facilitate individual hospital's daily operation and service planning. However, hospital bed managers' need on real-time bed situation might not be fulfilled by the daily reports and thus manual communication with ward staff, e.g. telephone / facsimile, were still required for gather information on beds occupancy and utilization, in particular during winter surge period and peak hours.

In view of this, plus the increasing demand in A&E Departments lately, HA ITD designed and launched a real-time Hospital Bed Management Dashboard (HBMD) in Dec 2015. HBMD aimed to provide information to hospital management to maximize the utilization of hospital beds by providing real-time concise statistics on hospital beds for hospital bed managers. With the HBMD, bed managers can understand the latest bed situation by obtaining statistics on ward locations of their choices at a glance: (i) patient and bed numbers, (ii) patient to bed ratio, (iii) overflow information (clinical specialties, sex, patient no.) and (iv) 6 pre-defined major clinical departmental grouping.

HBMD is designed and governed by a Bed Management System Working Group with experts from hospital management, it is user-friendly and caters hospitals' daily operation needs. Also, it is leveraged on the operational data in system, thus no extra effort on data capturing is required. With its web-based design, users can access anytime and anywhere at office or home via computer workstation or mobile device connected to hospital network.

In next stage, HBMD will be further explored if further development could be made to provide: (i) a user specific dashboard which allow users to choose specific specialty / ward according to their areas of focus; (ii) bed situation between acute hospital and convalescent hospital to reduce wards' workload in collaboration among various parties and (iii) patient movement tracking by using RFID / bar coding system.

Topic category

Health Data Standards for Interoperability