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Healthcare Informatics: *Art or Science?*

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The question of whether Healthcare informatics should be classified under the umbrella of Art or Science remains a hotly debated topic; this is due to the unique nature of the discipline itself;

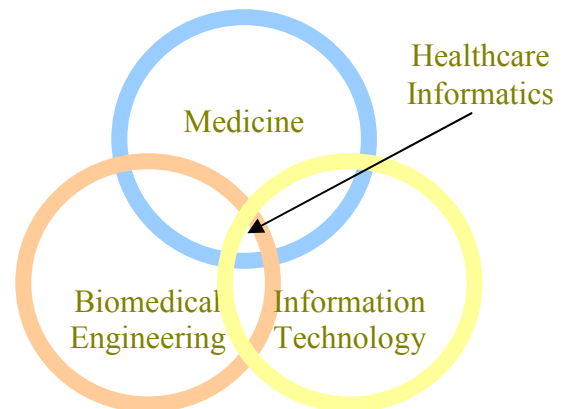
The management of IT or medicine itself is both an art, hence, it is of little wonder that the management of Healthcare Informatics is equally thorny if not more intricate. The main motivation for healthcare facilities to implement Healthcare / Clinical Information Systems has always been somewhat similar; to reduce healthcare cost and human errors while maximizing productivity.

Ironically, while medical science is known for adopting cutting edge technology, the adoption of computers in medicine to aid and optimize workflow has surprisingly, been receiving fanfare only in recent years. To make things more interesting, healthcare informatics is a rapidly evolving discipline where today's breakthrough is deemed as historical efforts within months. This makes deployment and implementation of Healthcare Informatics solutions an extremely challenging undertaking that takes men (and women) of great courage and perseverance to accomplish.

Healthcare Informatics practitioner comes from very different training and background, IT professionals, business administrators, physicians, paramedical professionals, biomedical engineers etc. the list goes on. Each stakeholder hopes to drive the advancement of the discipline in a different direction; this further complicates the quest of effective Healthcare Informatics implementation.

So what can one do about such predicament? While there is no cookie cutter solution, it is evidential that awareness and education onto the subject itself will aid smoothen the journey and what better platform to utilize than the Internet for collaboration among these individuals (a melting pot if you might).

The topic of using the Internet for collaboration is another topic for another time. I personally think that Healthcare Informatics is both an art as well as a science, how about you?





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