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Investigating The General Situation In The World And In Turkey About The Use Of HIMMS-EMRAM Model Through The Digitalization Process Of Hospitals

Özel SEBETCİ
Adnan Menderes University
Aydın Vocational School
Aydın, Turkey
orcid.org/0000-0002-2996-0270
osebetci@adu.edu.tr

Mehmet Can HANAYLI
Adnan Menderes University
Aydın Vocational School
Aydın, Turkey
orcid.org/0000-0002-5031-8100
mehmet.hanayli@adu.edu.tr

Gizem GÜREL DÖNÜK
Adnan Menderes University
Aydın Vocational School
Aydın, Turkey
orcid.org/0000-0002-4171-999X
gizem.gurel.donuk@adu.edu.tr

Extensive Summary

There are a wide range of challenges confronted while offering health care services all around the world. Therefore, medical services all around the world need similar predefined strategies. The aim of these strategies is to provide top quality medical service for as many citizens as possible. Digital hospital concept has become a vital subject in reaching this aim. Digital hospital comprises a set of aims that enables users to reach hospital information securely, analyze this information, provide high productivity in business and clinical processes, better monitoring of the health and health management during development process. (IBM Corporation, 2013).

HIMMS is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1961, based in Chicago and has branches in America, Europe and Asia, defines itself as the largest health IT membership organization and the leading health IT knowledge organization in the world. HIMSS Analytics collects, analyzes and distributes essential health IT data related to products, costs, metrics, trends and purchase decisions. It delivers quality data and analytical expertise to healthcare delivery organizations, IT companies, governmental entities, financial, pharmaceutical and consulting companies. HIMMS developed EMRAM scoring system that grades and accredits hospitals from 0 to 7 in order to constitute international standards of digital hospitals (Himss Türkiye, 2017).

EMRAM is a certification process beginning with current situation analysis, and

continues with needs analysis and lasts with analyzing further progress made. In this study the general situation of hospitals and hospital information management systems conforming to HIMMS-EMRAM standards has been analyzed in the world and in Turkish context.

In order to improve the clinical processes HIMMS accredits hospitals who applied according to EMRAM from 0 to 7 (Sağlık Bakanlığı - Emram, 2017). In this scoring system hospitals that reach 6th and 7th stages are given accreditation certificates. EMRAM accreditation process involves stages like application (medical service presentation and etc.), data gathering (structured questionnaire), data quality and control (for missing entries and inconsistencies), EMRAM score (calculation with the EMRAM algorithm).

The relationship between Ministry of Health and HIMMS authorities has started in September 2012 in Turkey. EMRAM workshops has been organized a few times a year in order to evaluate Turkish Public hospitals between 2013 and 2018, joint with the help of HIMMS Turkey, Public Hospitals Administration of Turkey, and Directorate General for Health Information Systems. According to Ministry of Health's 2017 data, there are 56 hospitals accredited in EMRAM stage 6 and 1 hospital accredited in EMRAM stage 7 (Dijital Hastane-c, 2017).

EMRAM model has been accepted worldwide after the year 2005. Throughout the world, France, Germany, İreland, Switzerland and Portuguese has 1 hospital, Belgium has 2 hospitals, England has 3 hospitals, Italy has 4 hospitals, Spain has 9 hospitals and Turkey has 56 hospitals (Dijital Hastane-c, 2017) that is accredited in EMRAM stage 6. 3 hospitals that reached EMRAM stage 7 are "Radboudumc" in Netherlands, Hospital Dénia "Marina Salud" in Spain and "İzmir Tire Devlet Hastanesi" in Turkey (HIMSS Analytics, 2017).

Results of this study reveal that very important steps has been taken after the year 2012 about the digitalization of hospitals in Turkey and compared to the developed countries in Europe, in medical care sector the number of digital hospitals in Turkey that fits HIMMS-EMRAM standards are very high.

In this study; the digitalization process of hospitals has been evaluated, compliance inspection to HIMMS-EMRAM standards has been done and the general situation in the world has been investigated. Further studies on this subject might investigate the digitalization process of EMRAM stage 6 and 7 hospitals, how they prepared for the process and how they managed this process in the long run and results might be shown as pathfinder for hospitals trying to reach high stages in EMRAM scores.