# Target Systems: Challenges and Opportunities in the Electronic Health Information System Arena

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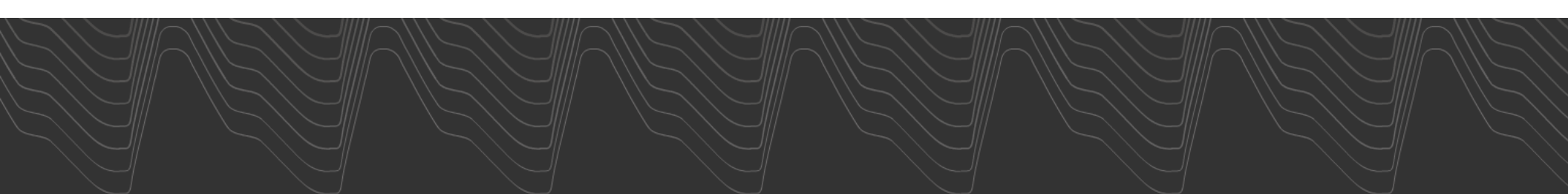
Electronic Health Records (EHR)
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Opportunities continued.
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Opportunities
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Threats

- Patient safety
- Risk of privacy and concern about security
- Insecurity of computer being breached
- Shifting medical record to informatized data which utilizes hand laboratory or physicians

Ethical Impact and Legal Implications

Ethical Impact and Legal Implications

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# *Electronic Health Records (EHR)*

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- Records are secure and private lifetime records that describe a person's health history and care

(Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2010).

- Widespread use of EHR just over 10 years

(Keller, 2016)

- Introduced by Lawrence Weed, MD in 1960's

(Keller, 2016)

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*Strengths*

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(Hoover, 2016)
- Legible, readily available, and retrieved in a timely manner

(Hoover, 2016)
- Better decisions with up to date, comprehensive patient information

(Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2010).
- Reduce costs and improve quality of care

(Hoover, 2016)
- EHR flags critical lab values, a reminder for nurses and also help determine when to repeat a test
(Hoover, 2016)

- reduces duplication of tests and stored results
(Hoover, 2016)

- 60% of medication errors were due to illegibility
(Hoover, 2016)

- reduce adverse drug reactions by 52%

# Strengths Continued..

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- EHR can improve accountability; by being able to see who accessed the records and when, and what the person did while accessing the records
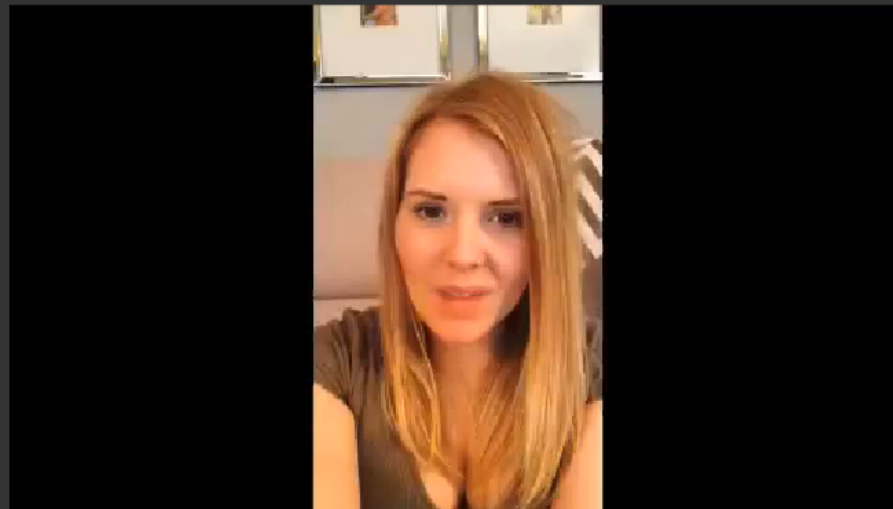
(Hoover, 2016)

- Patient's can be an advocate for themselves as they have access to their own records to read, print or send to other providers

(Hoover, 2016)

- Records are cost benefit, efficiency, instant access to patient records (labs, medical history, medications)

(Milton, 2009)

# *Weaknesses*

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- Financial issues

- Changes in flow of work and temporary loss of production to adopt and teach

- Privacy and security being  inappropriately shared

- Technology dependence

(Menachemi & Collum, 2011)

# *Weaknesses*
# *Continued..*

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- Computer bugs and system crashes
  (Ben- Assuli, 2015)

- Copying and pasting previous medical history

# *Opportunities*

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- Immediate access to health records

– EHRs make patient information more accessible

- Makes communication easier between health care providers

(Keller, 2016)