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National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN): Informatics solution for hospital-acquired infections

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As Program Manager for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for surveillance applications, the following are to be included: BioSense –syndromic surveillance of the; FluTool–surveillance application used by CDC to report weekly incidence of flu in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR); PHIN Vocabulary Access and Distribution System (VADS) – standardized vocabularies to Public Health partners; PHIN Messaging (MS) – standard secure messages HL-7 transport; National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) – healthcare-associated infection tracking; and International Healthcare Safety Network (IHSN) – healthcare-associated infection tracking to the Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs. In 2011, as Project Manager for the Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I managed Public Health Informatics; infectious disease surveillance; infection control; and implementation of surveillance/informatics requirements for the National Laboratory. While many healthcare informatics applications are superior in their use of scientific and epidemiological properties, they don't gather sufficient data on infectious/chronic diseases and HAIs in the local environment. Many in healthcare advocate top-down approaches to gaining this information But, instead of fixing problems in data validation and costs, focus has changed from data gathering technique improvement to accreditation and training in the hopes of improvement of healthcare related outcomes. Using mobile technology, the approach necessary, especially for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) towards this problem is to utilize methods and protocols already in place; automate local processes to roll up locally, regionally; and nationally and to expand on these local informatic solutions to eventual input to centralized systems (i.e., Big Data). One such systems is the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) implemented for the Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This presentation will be both a justification and a demonstration as to how and why this system works.

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