Cervical cancer screening information system

Country of origin | Argentina

Health problem addressed
In Argentina, cervical cancer is the second most common cause of death by tumors, in women from 35 to 64 years old, there is a death rate of 7.1 / 100,000 and an incidence of 23.2 / 100,000. Each year, in Argentina, 1,800 women die and a further 3,000 new cases are diagnosed. Women of low socioeconomic status are more vulnerable due to lack of access to screening.

Solution description
The national information online system of screening allows for the monitoring and appropriate treatment of affected women by providing nominalized lists of women included in the national prevention programme. The national information system identifies women with pathological paps for their diagnosis and treatment. It also provides indicators to monitor and evaluate the prevention programme.

Functionality
The national online information system allows for coordination of health services that are involved with uterine cervical cancer prevention, serving as a support of the monitoring of health services. It is used at the primary care level, cytology laboratories, gynaecology services and central level.

Developer's claims of solution benefits
It is an online information system that links services and users so that the information related to screening, diagnosis and treatment supports the management of the service network. It allows for the flow of information among different health services and country areas, allowing the monitoring of women in all stages of prevention, even those living in remote areas. It has an alert system that allows for faster detection of problems with women in need of diagnosis and treatment.

Future work and challenges
Incorporation of modules on breast and colon cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment.

User and environment
User: physician, technician, nurse, midwife, administrative staff.
Training: none
Settings: rural, urban, ambulatory, primary, tertiary.

Reviewer's comments
This system is deployed nationally for cervical cancer screening, treatment and capturing of data. It is also being developed and used locally and requires very low resources. A formal evaluation of this program would be helpful to contribute evidence, and this would form a basis upon which other countries might want to consider adopting it.

Solution specifications
Solution is used to support: Decision Support Systems; Electronic Health Record/Electronic Medical Record
Software/Hardware requirements: Access to a computer connected to the Internet. It uses the database engine SQL- Server, ASP programming language. The ministry of health has licenses for using them, so it was decided to develop the described tool on this platform. The software development is an open source and it belongs to the ministry of health.
Standards: ICD-10; Bethesda

Currently used in: Argentina
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