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CPHIMS

Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems exam

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Question: 1

What type of software is used in the healthcare industry to evaluate costs and track patient care?

- A. Statistical software
- B. Spreadsheets
- C. Database management software
- D. Simulation software

Answer: B

Explanation:

Spreadsheet software provides users with a way to manage and manipulate large sets of numbers. The healthcare industry uses spreadsheets to evaluate costs and track patient care. Statistical software is used to analyze input from the user by applying statistical methods to the data. Database-management software is software that allows the user to create access and manipulate a variety of databases, or collections of information. Users can compare information contained in databases. Simulation software creates an image of the information that needs to be analyzed so the user can experiment with the data without changing the original data.

Question: 2

When a healthcare provider visits patients away from the office, how can that provider access the patient's medical records?

- A. Electronic data interchange
- B. A terminal-host system
- C. A client-server system
- D. Mobile computing

Answer: D

Explanation:

Many times healthcare providers do not have access to a desktop computer when visiting patients away from the office. Mobile computing is a type of technology that can be used to access and manipulate data away from an internet connection. A laptop or other mobile device is used, but the information the user needs to access must be transferred to the mobile computer from the main computer before the information can be altered. Electronic data interchange, or EDI, is the term used to describe information sent back and forth between terminals without a person involved in the exchange. A terminal-host system is a centralized system that uses a main computer to process information and perform all computing tasks.

Question: 3

What is the largest concern that healthcare management must deal with as more providers and patients use the internet to access healthcare information?

- A. Privacy
- B. Usage
- C. Email communications
- D. Web page development

Answer: A

Explanation:

There are many concerns that management must deal with when the Internet is the main communication tool in an organization. Privacy is the most important concern and needs to be protected. Protection can include firewalls or putting information into code that hackers would not be able to decipher. Of lesser concern, internet usage within an organization must be monitored so employees do not access inappropriate websites or accidentally create security risks to the system. E-mail must be strictly monitored by management to ensure that personal e-mails are not being viewed, downloaded and forwarded. Email also puts the organization at risk for viruses. Management is responsible for ensuring that employees are using email appropriately and developing policies to ensure employees know their expectations. System administrators should be used to review web sites and authorize the creation of new web pages.

Question: 4

How can a healthcare organization reduce data redundancy and maintain data consistency?

- A. By limiting access to information
- B. By controlling access to networked computers
- C. Through the use of databases
- D. By using encryption software

Answer: C

Explanation:

Databases are used to store information. Data redundancy is reduced and data inconsistency can be maintained and eliminated by the database. Databases fix most of the problems related to data redundancy. This in turn strengthens the integrity of the data. Through the use of a database, different departments can access and see information stored on the database. Privacy is better maintained because one central database can be protected rather than multiple file sources.

Question: 5

What type of database is most often used in the healthcare industry?

- A. Operational database
- B. Hierarchal database
- C. Analytical database
- D. Data warehouse

Answer: B

Explanation:

The healthcare industry typically uses hierarchal databases for large amounts of complicated information and relational databases for information that is easily input into a spreadsheet type of application like employee information. Hierarchal and network models have specific lines to which the branches are connected to each other. Information has to be sent from the main department to its subsequent branches in a line formation. The structure of the databases makes it difficult to search the databases because they are not specifically named.

Question: 6

What is the most common way in which the healthcare industry protects private information?

- A. Public key encryption
- B. Virus protection
- C. Passwords
- D. Data backup and recovery

Answer: C

Explanation:

Privacy or confidentiality protection of databases is important in the healthcare industry because information in the databases is personal and most patients would not want their private information accessed by anyone outside of their healthcare providers. Management must protect individual records and the database in its entirety. Passwords are the most common way to limit numerous people from obtaining private information. Virus protection is necessary because people try to intentionally harm or completely ruin databases and operating systems. Networks and floppy disks are the main avenues through which viruses are passed so software should be installed to protect the system. Data backup and recovery systems ensure that information maintained in the healthcare computer system is saved and can be retrieved for later use.

Question: 7

In what type of system are patient records maintained in the healthcare industry?

- A. Object-oriented databases
- B. Order-entry systems
- C. Results-reporting systems

D. Clinical data repository

Answer: D

Explanation:

The healthcare industry uses a clinical data repository (CDR) to maintain patient's records. These records include when they seek healthcare, their financial status with the medical facility, the conclusion of tests performed on the patient, and surgical procedures pertaining to the heart. Object-oriented databases make objects and text searchable. An object-oriented database management system (OODBMS) provides a fast way to access images and sound information and understands multiple programming languages. Order- entry and results-reporting software provides communication between departments when medical treatments are not performed in one office.

Question: 8

Which of the following is not a reason why a healthcare organization should develop strategies regarding the use of information technology?

- A. To ensure that the organization's standards are met
- B. To ensure that computer systems are used at optimum value
- C. To ensure that patient needs are met
- D. To determine the amount of money spent on computer systems

Answer: C

Explanation:

The four reasons why a healthcare organization should develop strategies regarding the use of information technology include the following: to ensure the information technology is best used to meet an organization's standards, to make sure the computer systems are being used at their optimum value, to manipulate the computer systems technologically to meet the unique goals of the organization, and to determine how much money will be spent on the computer systems.

Question: 9

Which of the following terms describes the format information takes when entered into a computer system?

- A. Data warehouse
- B. Data dictionary
- C. Project organization
- D. Information system strategy

Answer: B

Explanation:

Part of the planning process for the use of an information technology system should include the format information will take when entered into the computer system. A data dictionary can be created which gives examples of and defines the format of data; when a user needs to enter information, the dictionary can be consulted. Information is exchanged between the departments of an organization and between medically- related businesses outside of the organization. This creates the need for use of the same type of data language, providing the systems with the ability to exchange information. Because this is an important issue for the healthcare industry as a whole, groups like the American National Standards Institute and the Health Industry Bar Code Supplier Labeling Standard have been formed to create common data formats.

Question: 10

What is the primary advantage of using medical imaging systems and radiology information systems?

- A. The ability to view images Correct
- B. The ability to track patient exams
- C. The ability to input patient symptoms
- D. The ability to make a diagnosis

Answer: A

Explanation:

Medical imaging systems and radiology information systems give doctors the ability to view images more extensively. Pictures can be taken and manipulated with medical imaging systems. Patient exams, including when they will occur and the outcome of the exam, are produced by radiology information systems. Radiology information systems can compile information for management needs. The computer has the ability to help doctors in the field of radiology by giving the doctors several possibilities when determining the best way to handle a patient's problems.