

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Maltese ministry for education and employment from honoring me with the tertiary education scholarship scheme award. I must concede that the scholarship proved to be a key factor in furthering my studies. As a midwife working in the general Maltese hospital, this managerial master's degree has already helped me advance in my profession. Moreover, I also feel that the skills I've learnt throughout can help me improve the health care system. Thanks to the scholarship, the research's significance and relevance to national strategic priorities were given the attention they deserve. It was only because of this opportunity that I was able to delve deeper into practices, such as change management and leadership in health care, in hopes of contributing in the development of the Maltese healthcare system.

The research study undertaken provided an evaluation on health care professionals' (HCP) acceptance of an electronic health record (EHR) system. In effect, the rationale for choosing this area of study stemmed from the disorganised state of our healthcare record keeping systems. Non-digital approaches tend to be prone to errors, inefficiencies and drawbacks which hinder the flow of information, insufficiently document patient care and ultimately impede on the delivery of healthcare (Adler-Milstein & Bates, 2010; Gartee, 2012; Nedig, 2016). Moreover, it is well acknowledged that having immediate access to patient information during care empowers HCPs to make informed decisions which in turn may lead to a reduction in avoidable admissions and better health care outcomes (Cucciniello, 2011; Neidig, 2016)

The research aimed at gaining insight of local HCPs perspectives on the adoption of EHRs, exploring the factors that affect HCPs' acceptance of an EHR system and to compare and contrast these factors between two different hospitals. The results show that there is a clear need for EHR. Nonetheless, if its implementation is to be successful the system needs to be user friendly and beneficial to the HCP. That said, participants emphasized that the provision of adequate IT systems is a prerequisite for successful implementation. Normative factors, openness to change, training and user involvement also play a role. Perhaps one of the most important recommendations brought forward from this research is the need for competent managers in leading such an implementation.

**Claudine Grech**

**MSc. in Management with the University of Chester**

### References

- Adler-Milstein, J., & Bates, D. (2010). Paperless healthcare: Progress and challenges of an IT-enabled healthcare system. *Business Horizons*, 53, 119-130.
- Cucciniello, M. (2011). *An investigation of the use of ICT in the modernization of the health care sector: a comparative analysis*. Edinburgh: PhD in Management at the College of Humanities & Social Science Business School at the University of Edinburgh .
- Gartee, R. (2011). *Electronic Health Records: understanding and using computerized medical records* (2 ed.). Boston: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Neidig, N. (2016). *Becoming Paperless: Fostering Adoption of Health Information Technology*. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada: Masters of Arts in Leadership at the Royal Roads University.

