Public Health Information Systems

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This course will introduce participants to the concept of medical/health informatics and provide some general examples of information technology as applied in health care. The focus is at the system level, not individual applications. The course also defines the national [health] information infrastructure and initiates discussion about the recommendations from the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. The issues underlying information and technology standards and key standards setting organizations supporting the national health information infrastructure are also identified. Journal articles and links to important source documents addressing the discussions of various issues are provided as a supplement to lectures and discussion.

Learning Objectives

- Gain familiarity with the concepts of Public Health informatics
- Understand models for designing community health information systems
- Identify examples of informatics application in health care
- Understand the challenges and limitations of information systems
- Analyze appropriate applications of informatics for Public Health

Competencies

Bioterrorism and Emergency Readiness
- Identify limits to own knowledge/skill/authority and identify key system resources for referring matters that exceed these limits.

Core
- Recognizes how the data illuminates ethical, political, scientific, economic, and overall public health issues

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