APS1012 Management of Innovation – Final Team Projects, Spring 2013 (online class)

Healthcare Innovations

This paper provides a summary of the healthcare landscape in the North American context by reviewing innovations that address key healthcare issues in Elder Care, Decision Support, Genomics, Kinect in Healthcare and the e-Health landscape. In different sections of the report, we review different innovation environments and identify the opportunities for continuous improvement and new innovations. From different perspectives, the key question that we are trying to answer is: what innovations (either disruptive or incremental) have taken place or are currently taking place in healthcare?

We first explore the funding and delivery environment, acknowledging the assumptions around cost and sustainability. We find that the opportunities lie in improving the quality of life for elderly patients through homecare by leveraging technology enablers. We also review the Kinect in detail and identify the opportunities for this innovation to disrupt healthcare processes. We then review innovations that address chronic disease through the use of big data and new tools such as Genomics and Watson. By targeting patients who are at risk or who already suffer from chronic disease; it is possible to prevent complications from these comorbidities in the future.

In conclusion, we acknowledge that healthcare landscape is rapidly changing in North America and recommend that stakeholders such as patients and providers adopt disruptive technologies such as the ones identified in this paper, to bring down costs, improve efficiency and overall patient outcomes.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we acknowledge that e-health landscape is also rapidly changing in North America and that innovations such as the ones identified in this paper will bring down costs, improve efficiency and overall patient outcomes. The Kinect as a tool has the potential to help solve complicated problems and bring about real change in people's lives. From helping kids with autism, to patients recovering from strokes, to using the Kinect during surgery, the scope of applications of this technology is yet to be fully realized. In addition, monitoring technology has the potential to improve senior quality of life. As the elderly population increases, this technology will increase in demand and could reduce the burden the increased number of injured seniors will put on the current healthcare system. An despite all obstacles and criticism, health care experts believe Electronic Health Record system have the potential to save lives, reduce health care costs, and improve patient service. We find that although the initial cost of disruptive products such as Watson, Genomics and Gene Sequencing are quite high. As demonstrated in the case of gene sequencing, scaling down from high cost healthcare settings to low cost healthcare settings to low cost healthcare delivery settings such as primary care clinics will help make the products more affordable.