

HINF 1100: Introduction to Health Informatics
Fall 2008
Assignment 1

Assignment Date: Sept 29 2008

Assignment Due Date: Oct. 06 2008

Question 1: Briefly give your understanding to the following:

- 1a. What is health informatics? (5%)
- 1b. Identify the role of health informatics in the healthcare process? (5%)
- 1c. Justify the need for health informatics in the healthcare process? (5%)

Question 2: Provide answers to the below questions:

- a. Describe your understanding about models in general, and then extend this understanding to answer the following questions. (5%)
- b. Why do we need to model the healthcare process to develop health informatics solutions? (5%)
- c. Explain the different types of models that exist in healthcare and briefly describe their role in the care process? (7%)
- d. How can models help develop “better” healthcare systems? (8%)

Question 3: In order to answer some of the below questions you are required to do some research by finding the relevant material over the Internet. You can use examples to illustrate your answers.

- a. From your experience of the healthcare process what kinds of health information is used (or is needed) to perform the following activities: Diagnosis, Treatment and Healthcare costing. (10%)
- b. You are required to explore 3 different patient-oriented health information portals and then do the following: (20%)
 - i. What are the key features of each portal
 - ii. What is the main purpose/focus of each portal
 - iii. How is the information organized at the portal? You can use an example describing one information theme.
 - iv. Which one do you like and why
 - v. How easy is each portal to use by users.
- c. You are required to explore 2 different practitioner-oriented health information portals and then do the following: (10%)
 - i. What are the key features of each portal
 - ii. What is the main purpose/focus of each portal
 - iii. How is the information organized at the portal. You can use an example describing one information theme.

Question 4 : Provide answers to the following questions:

- a. Identify the key elements that constitute a health information system, and then explain the role/purpose of each element. (5%)
- b. Both the laboratory information system and the radiology information system are quite similar in their role in the care process. Can you identify the similarities between these two systems. (7%)
- c. How does the patient information system connect with the rest of the information systems in a hospital. You can use a diagram to illustrate your understanding (8%)

Submission Instructions:

- You are required to TYPE your answers and staple the pages. Handwritten notes will not be accepted. Also, credit cannot be given to any missing page that is produced later (therefore staple the pages)
- Write your name, Banner ID and e-mail address on the front page of the assignment.

Notes:

- This assignment is to be attempted and submitted on an individual basis.
- Students are advised to read and understand the Dalhousie Plagiarism policy.
- Students are advised to read the late assignment submission policy in the [HINF1100 Description Document](#)