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# From Caregiver to Computer Geek: The Design of a Web Resource for Novice Clinical Informaticians

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Introduction:
Throughout the United States, there are massive initiatives in place to reform healthcare through the implementation of electronic health records. The goals are to improve patient care through improved access to records, the improvement of business and reimbursement processes, streamlining of clinician workflows for increased efficiency, and reducing the variability in the delivery of patient care.

The implementation of an electronic health record requires input from a large number of clinical experts in every step of the process: from system selection, design and configuration, through training, implementation, and end user support. The clinicians who are selected for these tasks have the same tale to tell: They were approached by someone in leadership who requested their help in this monumental task. Suddenly, they found themselves in an environment that is foreign to them, immersed in a world of technology. The work environment and culture of an informatician is different from a clinician, the positive feedback of direct patient care is gone, and stresses of computer use emerge.

Problem:
Most employers offer no formalized career and psychosocial resources are available to support the caregiver's transition from a direct caregiver role to an information technology role. The stress of this major life change, as well as the variable and delayed gratification provided by an IT project, could potentially cause attrition amongst the clinicians on the project team.

Methods:
An open source learning management system is utilized to provide resources for clinical informaticians. This web-based resource provides a support environment that facilitated by discussion forums, journal articles, and a glossary of technical and industry terminology.

Current Status
A pilot study is in progress in a Texas Medical Center hospital in the early stages of implementing an integrated electronic health record.

Conclusion
Future research and development is needed to identify a suggested curriculum and orientation pathway for clinicians.