Abstract

Introduction: Digital health solutions were introduced in Sri Lankan health sector in the recent past. It is rapidly growing throughout the country providing more benefits for the people in the country. Digital health solutions are suggested to be standard, interoperable with other information systems with proper exchange mechanisms to be able to contribute to the growth of the health care sector and quality health deliverables in a country. In global context, registry services including facility registry, client registry, healthcare provider registry and terminology services play a major role in digital health initiatives which need to be implemented in Sri Lankan context as well. Health Facility Registry is a key service component for such initiatives.

Method: Master health facility list and the health facility registry is developed after gathering data from multiple stakeholders and using published web-based data in other countries. A qualitative study was conducted among health administrators, health informaticians, administrative medical officers and other relevant health staff and data collected using focus group discussions and one-to-one interviews using semi structured interview guides. A thematic analysis was done, and the derived themes were incorporated during the design.

Results: The shortcomings of the existing lists and the significance of creating a master facility list were emphasized. The key data elements in a master health facility list and a national health facility registry were identified. For demonstration purpose, a web-based software program was developed.

Conclusion: As a national health facility registry is a major component of the national digital health architecture and interoperability plan in Sri Lanka, there is a need of piloting and implementation in line with the other important registry services in very near future. It will facilitate decision making, resource and patient management and research and improve the quality of health care services.