

Abstract

Introduction

Managing critically ill patients in Intensive care units is an important aspect of patient care. Therefore analysis of the data about these patients, their clinical conditions and the facilities provided by the intensive care units, are very important to improve the quality of health care. Other than for the limited information collected through special surveys and registers maintained by the special campaigns, the indoor morbidity and mortality return is the main source of morbidity data in Sri Lanka. Obtaining data related to Intensive care patients is difficult and sometimes data specific to Intensive care setup is not available.

Methods

A web based intensive care surveillance system was designed, developed & evaluated using the action design research method. Name based patient tracking system in the District Health Information management system 2 is used as the basis for capturing the patient data for the aggregation. Using server setup ten data samples reflecting ten patients were tested on the system and feedback from five users obtained.

Results

Basic patient details on admission and discharge is easily captured and aggregated by the system and the system can be used as a basic surveillance system. However to capture the daily patient updates, name based information tracking system needs to be modified. Simpler menu system is valuable to use the system for Intensive care setting.

Conclusion

District Health Information system is a promising free and open source tool which can be used for the simple intensive care surveillance. However designing and development of the system to suite the local setup needs source code level changes to the core District Health Information System.