

## ▼ Introduction to Consumer Health Informatics Minitrack

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Consumers are increasingly relying on Information Technology as an avenue for access to health information, resources and advances in knowledge. This is demonstrated by the shift in the past decade from the traditional doctor-patient relationship to a more consultative scenario as consumers increasingly take a more active role in their health care. The Consumer Health Informatics Minitrack focuses on the consumer becoming more involved in the understanding, decisions and management of their own health. Articles focus in themes that support consumers taking an active role in understanding, deciding about and/or managing their health; doctor-patient communication; clinical guideline and protocol support; monitoring and prevention of adverse events; and personal electronic health records. The intention is to use the unique international and interdisciplinary forum provided by HICSS (and by the IT in Health Care Track of HICSS) to allow expression of practical and theoretical, academic and industrial insight on this topic.

Our first paper “Stratified Modelling and Analysis of Confidentiality Requirements” by Onabajo and Weber-Jahnke models privacy and confidentiality requirements of individual and consumer groups. It provides multilateral and

stratified viewpoints to the requirements analysis process as it applies to relevant stakeholders, taking into account different levels of jurisdiction, legislation and policy.

Our second paper by Lafky and Horan is concerned with using the PHR to improve health care through consumer empowerment. In this paper, the author explore what users want and how they will use these systems. They report on a user-centered design study that combines qualitative and quantitative approaches to investigate how health status may affect user needs for a PHR.

The third paper is “Consumer-Centric and Privacy-Preserving Identity Management for Distributed e-Health Systems”, by Au. This paper provides a framework for linking data from different health care facilities whilst protecting patient privacy.

These papers highlight some of the issues and work towards solutions in Consumer Health Informatics for healthcare quality, efficiency and decision support. They provide useful thinking and discussion points through which researchers gather to discuss and further develop these ideas. This interaction will provide a framework for further research in the area of Consumer Health Informatics.