Is the electronic medical record (EMR) only a modern way to keep track of patients and their health records, or could it be something more?

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Prepared by:
Per Lindberg
Post Doctoral Fellow
Simon Fraser University

Ellen Balka
Principal Investigator, ACTION for Health
Simon Fraser University

Document Contact:
Ellen Balka
School of Communication
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC, Canada V5A 1S6
tel: +1.604.725.2756
e-mail: ellenb@sfu.ca
website: www.sfu.ca/act4hlth/

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Is the electronic medical record (EMR) only a modern way to keep track of patients and their health records, or could it be something more?

Per Lindberg¹,², DrMedSci  
Ellen Balka, PhD¹  
¹Simon Fraser University, Canada  
²Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Primary purpose

- document patient data
- communication
Secondary purpose

• to aid nonclinical use (e.g., billing, statistics, evaluation)
Another view of the record

The production of:

- patients’ bodies
- bodies politics
- bodies of knowledge
Ascribed advantages of EMR

• no more search
• readable
• reduction of errors
• time saving
• cost saving
• statistics
• billing
• evaluation & research
EMR - Impact on organization

- two-way process
- change of work practices
- social consequences
- political consequences
- organizational development
- cross boundaries
EMR - Impact on research

- improvements of research
- better patient body
- broader data input