

Parallel Sessions C
C1 – Exploring the Clinical Librarian Model

Friday, September 20, Room B, 15.35

The Multiple Role of Clinical Librarian as a Gatekeeper and Information Provider in Emergency Medicine

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One of the most important transformations that will occur in Emergency Department (ED) over the next years is the application of new information technologies in clinical practice. In particular, it is important to know the requirements for an information system suited to EM, the available strategies of data gathering, and the types of information related projects in the field of EM.

Computes systems support clinical practice but the point is there are many problems associated with this new technology. In an Emergency Hospital, information needs arise twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week with the average length of stay in hospital declining, information must be retrieved as soon as the need arises so as to influence clinical decision-making and treatment. If the clinical librarian is considered part of the health care team, the responsibilities may depend upon whom the clinical librarian is serving. In dealing with a physician the primary responsibility to that patron is the provision of information.

The changing role of the clinical librarian may also raise new questions about acquisitions. A librarian in a health care setting may has special duties regarding the health of others that may complicate usual access to information. The development of a systematic body of evidence would be useful to the EM community to focus research efforts, as well as informs today's quality improvement strategies.