Computers in Health Care

Introduction

- Computers are used in four general areas:
  - Hospital information systems
  - Diagnostic testing
  - Educational tools
  - Research

  Therefore it is essential that you have a working knowledge (computer literacy) of the computer!

Computer Application

- Today's health care provider uses computers in every facility
- Computers are used for:
  - Word procession
  - Compiling databases
  - Scheduling
  - Maintaining financial records
  - Monitoring patients
  - Performing diagnostics tests
  - Maintaining inventories
  - Developing spreadsheets
  - communication

Patients Admittance Information

- What would the following workers enter as the patients information?
  - Admissions clerk
  - Physician
  - Pharmacist
  - Dietitian
  - Lab Tech
  - Environmental service worker (works with supplies)
  - Account clerk

Advantages of Computerized Databases

- Records can be retrieved quickly and easily
- Records can be sorted (example organizing charts alphabetically or by insurance company)
- Information can be accessed by more than one person at a time
- Additions and changes can be entered easily
- Data can be entered in a readable form
- Reports can be generated

Internet use

- At this time materials placed on the internet is not regulated
- Not all information is reliable
- Guidelines to help evaluate sites:
  - Identify the source
  - Determine the author
  - Check for accuracy
  - Verify important data
  - Look for signs of quality
  - Check for currency

Communication with internet

- Electronic Mail (E-mail)
  - Be clear, accurate, and to the point=professional
- Telemedicine
  - Medicine is practiced over the phone
  - Images such as x-rays can be transmitted
  - Can now access doctors that are far away
- Telepharmacies
  - Allow dispensing of drugs at sites other than pharmacies through a computerized dispensing unit
- Virtual communities
  - Can share and communicate with others

Journal

- Respond to the following questions...
- Please USE COMPLETE SENTENCES and THINK YOUR ANWSERS THROUGH

  ▫ How can confidentiality be maintained when computers are used for patient records?

  ▫ Is it ethical for the pharmacy to give a list of diabetic patients to a company that makes a new and improved insulin product? Why or why not?

  ▫ In the future what changes do you imagine will come to health care as a result of improved computers?