

CMPUT 605

Ethics in the Software Development Life Cycle: A Case Study of Health Informatics Systems

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Review of Last Meeting

- ◆ Looking into levels of risk in FDA document
- ◆ Looking at Canada, USA, Europe
- ◆ Many other codes of ethics (AHIMA, AMIA, COACH, WHO)
- ◆ Review of IMIA/BCS code of ethics
- ◆ Introduction section draft

Agenda for Today

- ◆ Review of paper titled “New Hampshire critical access hospitals: CEOs' report on ethical challenges”
- ◆ Comparative reviews of
 - ◆ WHO eHealth code
 - ◆ AMIA code
 - ◆ AHIMA code
 - ◆ COACH code
- ◆ Structure of final report

CEOs' Report

- ◆ Published July 2009
- ◆ Paper titled “New Hampshire critical access hospitals: CEOs' report on ethical challenges”
- ◆ Paper examines ethical conflicts from the perspective of CEOs
- ◆ The paper surveyed 13 CEOs of Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in New Hampshire, New England, USA

CEOs' Report

- ◆ CAHs are hospitals that receive cost-based reimbursements from MediCare
- ◆ The paper reviewed other literature to formulate its survey
 - ◆ Types of ethical conflicts
 - ◆ Frequency of ethical conflicts
 - ◆ Ethics resources available to resolve

Ethical Conflicts

“Conflicts or uncertainty about what is right and wrong when there are competing personal values (such as integrity, compassion, respect, etc.), or ethical principles (such as, do not deprive freedom, do not deceive, justice, do not kill, etc.), or ethical standards of practice (such as ACHE or American Association code of ethics and hospital policy).”

Types of Ethical Conflicts

- ◆ Reimbursement
- ◆ Resource allocation
- ◆ Clinical care
- ◆ Access to healthcare
- ◆ Boundaries
- ◆ Conflicts of interest
- ◆ Confidentiality and privacy
- ◆ Organizational culture
- ◆ Staff/Employee/Community relations
- ◆ Professional standards

Ethics Resources

- ◆ Ethics committees or consultants
 - ◆ Telephone conversation with healthcare ethicist
 - ◆ E-mail conversation with healthcare ethicist
 - ◆ Tele-health network/discussion forum
- ◆ Written or e-materials
 - ◆ General healthcare ethics book
 - ◆ Case-focused ethics book
 - ◆ Internet-based case-focused materials
- ◆ Colleagues
- ◆ Other

WHO eHealth Code

- ◆ Published May 2000
- ◆ Aims to create awareness about risks and potentials of eHealth
- ◆ 8 ethical guidelines
 - ◆ Candor
 - ◆ Honesty
 - ◆ Quality
 - ◆ Informed consent
 - ◆ Privacy
 - ◆ Professionalism in online health care
 - ◆ Responsible partnering
 - ◆ Accountability

AMIA Code

- ◆ Published Feb 2007
- ◆ References IMIA and AHIMA codes
- ◆ 5 categories of healthcare stakeholders and ethical guidelines for each
 - ◆ Patients
 - ◆ Colleagues
 - ◆ Institutions
 - ◆ Society and research
 - ◆ General

AHIMA Code

- ◆ Published July 2004,
- ◆ 11 ethical principles and interpretations
 - ◆ Uphold rights to privacy and confidentiality
 - ◆ Welfare of others before self-interests
 - ◆ Security of health information
 - ◆ Refuse to take part in unethical practices
 - ◆ Promote health information knowledge
 - ◆ Mentor new workforce
 - ◆ Represent profession accurately to the public
 - ◆ Honorably perform responsibilities
 - ◆ Truthfully state credentials
 - ◆ Facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration
 - ◆ Respect dignity and worth of every person

COACH Code

- ◆ Abridged version, published Dec 2006
- ◆ 10 aspirational high-level principles
 - ◆ Safeguard public interest
 - ◆ Treat all persons with respect
 - ◆ Safeguard information
 - ◆ Work collegially with fellow professionals
 - ◆ Perform duties diligently
 - ◆ Proactive and forward-looking to technology
 - ◆ Maintain and improve competence
 - ◆ Uphold honor of profession
 - ◆ Avoid conflicts of interest
 - ◆ Acknowledge ethical dilemmas

Comparative Analysis

- ◆ AIMA code takes elements of BCS code
 - ◆ Health informatics section on duties
- ◆ Many other similarities
- ◆ AHIMA aspires to promote health information knowledge and mentor new workforce
- ◆ BCS subscribes to make the public aware of health informatics issues
- ◆ How to carry out comparative analysis
 - ◆ Anchor
 - ◆ Combinations

Structure of Final Report

- ◆ Introduction
 - ◆ Motivation
- ◆ Background
 - ◆ Literature review
- ◆ Ethics
 - ◆ General, software engineering, information, health informatics
- ◆ Ethics in the SDLC
 - ◆ FDA guide
- ◆ Ethics resources
 - ◆ Ethical conflicts, codes, comparative analysis
- ◆ Conclusion
- ◆ References

Plan for Next Week

- ◆ Next week
 - ◆ FDA guide containing levels of risk
 - ◆ Book
 - ◆ Next section on Background
 - ◆ Restricting myself on reviewed codes
- ◆ Website updates
 - ◆ Removing ISO and SmartCondo links
 - ◆ Adding new links to AHIMA, AIMA, WHO, COACH
 - ◆ Adding presentation slides for 2 meetings