Digital skills for health professionals

The pandemic has had an impact on the mass deployment of digital tools in healthcare. However, with the return to face-to-face care, remote care using digital technologies has not cemented its position. Digital health is an opportunity to address these challenges and ensure that health is a universal right, but...

What skills do healthcare professionals need to successfully incorporate digital health into their professional practice?

Data and information management
The routine collecting data in the appropriate format, critically evaluating them using digital health tools, and interpreting them requires planning the practice and decision-making.

Clinical practice and applications
The ability to adapt clinical practice to technological disruptions, and to assess the patient’s health and their health is needed.

Professional development
The workforce training, and the ability to choose those tools for the development and management of patients, and identify how they affect their health and their relationship with professionals.

Evaluation and quality
Awareness of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of digital health tools, including in professional processes, and determining the advantages and disadvantages of remote care compared to face-to-face care.

Patient education, literacy and empowerment
The ability to improve users' and other professionals' digital health literacy, and use learning technologies, and to support the education of patients and other professionals' digital literacy.

Professionalism
Being able to act according to the professional guidelines and the organization's policies and professional guidelines and the system. Managing the digital footprint, and maintaining and achieving the shared health goal.

Communication, collaboration and participation
The ability to communicate and collaborate through digital channels, taking into account the needs of patients, and professionals, while maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of data.

Ethics, deontology and legislation
Comprehension of the ethical use of digital health technologies and the effectiveness of digital health solutions among professionals, and how to communicate with them.

Safety
Using digital health technologies to improve patients' safety, and managing the risk arising from the use of these technologies.

Technical skills
The ability to choose the digital health solution that meets the patient's needs and professional guidelines, to lead digital health projects and to identify challenges, barriers and facilitators.

There are many factors widening the implementation of digital health technologies, economic, legal, organizational and human.

The lack of skills and competencies in the use of digital solutions among professionals is one of the most important factors.

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