Hospital Information Systems (HIS) are enterprise-grade, comprehensive, integrated information systems designed to manage medical, financial and other business related functions in the hospital. These are massive, complex, integrated systems that support the comprehensive information requirements of hospitals, including patient, clinical, ancillary and financial management. Some HIS may have both business and clinical features in the same software while others are 2 or software components that form an integrated HIS.

Benefits of Integrated Hospital Information Systems

- **Easy, Fast and Convenient Access to Accurate Patient Information:** Provides convenient access to medical and financial records at all points of care and billing. Internet-based access greatly improves the ability to remotely access such data even beyond the walls of the hospital.

- **Readable, Structured Information:** The clinical information captured in Hospital Information Systems is well organised, thus making it easier to maintain and quicker to search through for relevant information. The information is also legible, making it less likely that mistakes would be made due to illegible writing.

- **Billing Integrated with Clinical Management:** Clinical Information Systems that are integrated with the billing process speed up the process of billing patients and insurance providers while improving accuracy. This also improves safeguards against fraud and
inefficiencies.

- **Real-Time Financial Reporting:** With clinical care systems integrated with accounting functionality and inventory, purchasing and financial reporting is automated to a large degree and made more accurate.

HIS System Functions

Hospital Information Systems cover a broad array functionality including:

A. Business Applications

Most HIS includes systems to solve common, if not all problems of a paper-based, fragmented business ecosystem. Most hospital today may use different software for accounting, inventory, and payroll from other vendors that does not integrate or "talk" to each other. Some business applications that a well designed HIS should have are:

- **Accounting**
  - General Ledger
  - Accounts Payable
  - Accounts Receivable
  - Asset Management
  - Departmental Cost Accounting
  - Revenue Cycle Management
  - Billing

- **Personnel Management**
  - Staff Recruiting
  - Payroll
  - Leave Management
  - Benefits and Taxes
  - Employee Reviews
B. Clinical Applications

A fully-integrated HIS includes a features for managing clinical information. Some of the features include, but may not be limited to the following:

- Patient Registration System
- Admission
- Discharge
- Transfer
- Patient Chart
- Doctors' Note
- Nurses' Notes
- Order Management
- Results Management
- Medication Administration
- Laboratory Information System
- Specimen Management
- Order Tracking
- Results Management
- Results Audit
- Results and Alerts Notification
- Radiology Information System and PACS
- DICOM viewer
- Order Tracking
- Results Management
- Results Audit
- Scheduling
- Workflow Management
- Image Distribution and Management
- Operating Room Management
- Automated Schedule Management
- Utilization Management
- Perioperative Management

C. Dashboards and Reports

It is critical for decision-makers, especially in complex environments like the hospitals, to have timely, accurate and relevant information. Business intelligence features such as dashboards and reports are vital components of a well-designed HIS.
References:


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**HIS Providers in the Philippines**

**Philippine HIS Software Providers**

[Full Disclosure: EHRI-Philippines, the content provider of this course is the developer of a hospital information system which will also be discussed in this module.]

The Philippines has a few home grown HIS providers:

- **BizBox**: is a Microsoft-based hospital information system used in many hospitals in the country. Learn more about BizBox' Hospital Information System in this video:

- **ComLogik** is another Philippine-based Microsoft-based hospital information management system provider. Learn more about ComLogik's HIMS here: [http://comlogik.com/Products.aspx#why_hims](http://comlogik.com/Products.aspx#why_hims) (Links to an external site.)

- **DOH-HOMIS**: HOMIS was developed by the Department of Health as an affordable hospital information system for DOH and other governmental hospitals. Although Homis is provided free to DOH hospitals it has had mixed success to date and is currently in use in about 30 DOH hospitals at various levels of use.
- **EHRI-PH**: A recent entrant into the Philippine HIS market is Electronic Health Records International - Phillipines (EHRI-PH) with an open source HIS platform built on Open ERP and an integrated US-certified Electronic Health Record system called HarmoniMD. EHRI-PH is providing these systems on a subscription basis that is affordable for all sizes of hospitals and clinics.