



Digital Health Records Systems and Tuberculosis Treatment in South African Hospitals: A Qualitative Study

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Published: 12 July 2012 | **Received:** 12 March 2012 | **Accepted:** 17 June 2012

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18971911](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18971911)

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Abstract

Digital health records (DHR) systems are increasingly being implemented in healthcare settings to improve patient outcomes and operational efficiency. In South Africa, where tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant public health issue, DHRs have the potential to enhance TB treatment adherence and management. The study employed semi-structured interviews with stakeholders including TB clinicians, hospital administrators, and patients. Data collection was conducted through key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGDs). A notable finding is the significant improvement in patient adherence to treatment protocols when DHRs were integrated into care pathways, as evidenced by a 20% increase in reported medication compliance rates. The integration of digital health records systems has shown promise in enhancing tuberculosis treatment outcomes in South African hospitals. However, challenges related to system interoperability and user training persist. Future research should explore the long-term sustainability and scalability of DHRs in TB management, while healthcare providers need further support for effective system implementation. digital health records, tuberculosis treatment, South Africa, qualitative study

Keywords: *African diaspora, qualitative methodology, health informatics, tuberculosis control, community engagement*

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