Drug Safety Alerting in Computerized Physician Order Entry

Unraveling and Counteracting Alert Fatigue

Computerized physician order entry systems (CPOEs) usually generate drug safety alerts to remind physicians to potentially unsafe situations. However, physicians may feel overwhelmed by high numbers of unspecific alerts and may suffer from alert fatigue, important alerts being ignored along with unimportant ones.

This PhD thesis is about drug safety alerting in CPOE and the risk of alert fatigue. It gives an insight into alert generation and overriding in Dutch hospitals in order to unravel the problem of alert fatigue. It also describes attempts to counteract alert fatigue by decreasing the burden of excessive numbers of alerts. This thesis shows it is not as simple to improve drug safety alerting in CPOE as you expect it to be.

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