Technology Mediated Collaborations in Healthcare

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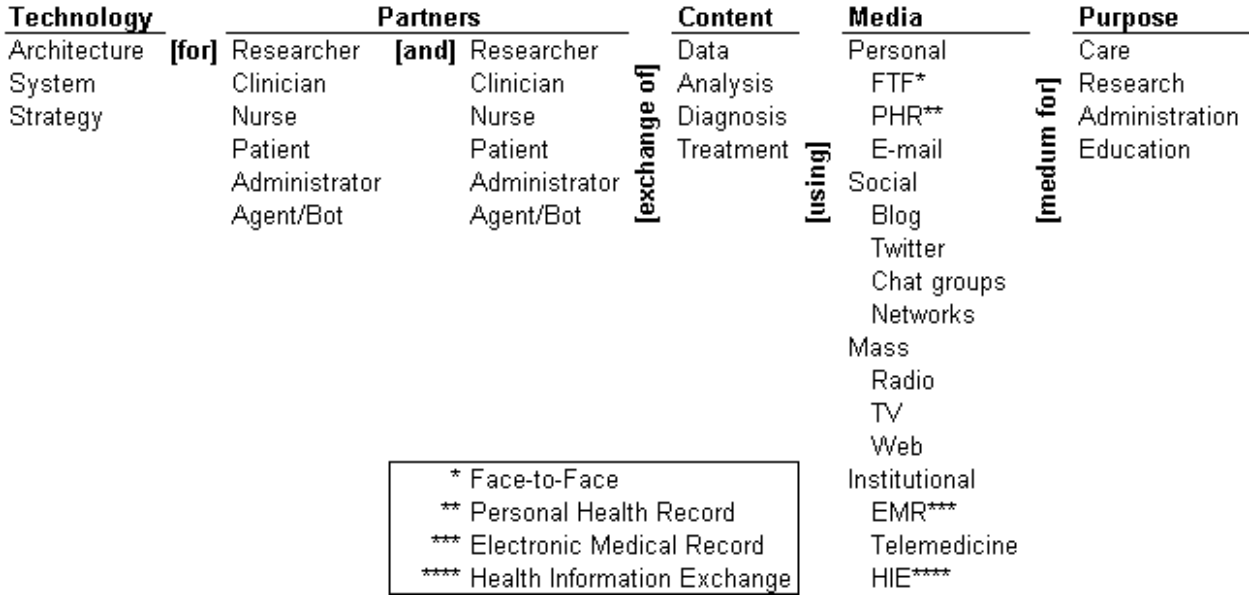
Collaboration technologies are being used in healthcare research, practice, and management. However, they have potential for even greater use especially in the light of healthcare reforms which emphasize the key enabling role for technology to facilitate superior health care delivery currently occurring throughout many countries.

Geographically dispersed health professionals can use collaboration technology to communicate with each other, review patient records, manage workflows, and improve the delivery of patient care. Similarly, geographically non-collocated researchers can collaborate with each other. The challenges being addressed by this mini-track are encapsulated in the ontology in the figure below.

The three papers in the mini-track address different components of the ontology. The paper "Design of Integral Reminder for Collaborative Appointment Management" proposes design principles for technology-mediated collaboration between patients and providers. The principles can be used to design systems to improve patient compliance and cost-effectiveness of healthcare delivery by combining scheduling and reminding functionalities, and streamlining information processing. The paper "Knowledge Activation for Patient Centered Care: Bridging the health Information Technology Divide" reports that knowledge activation can help bridge evidence-based care and patient-centered care. It can facilitate patient participation in data-driven care. The paper "E-Health: Value Proposition and Technologies Enabling Collaborative Healthcare" presents an interdisciplinary perspective on the value proposition of and research opportunities afforded by the development in the emerging domain. They also highlight the problems in realizing its full potential.

Ideally, one would hope to realize all the possible collaborations envisaged in the ontology. There is a need for these collaborations. The three papers are a sample, albeit not representative, of the research on technology mediated collaboration in healthcare. The papers in the past years have covered many other aspects of the ontology. The three papers are signifiers of the state-of-the-practice and the state-of-the-aspiration. With the increasing emphasis on translational research, cost containment, safety, and quality in healthcare the collaborations underrepresented in these papers would be equally important for effective delivery.



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