Survey of PHR Technology

James Robison*, Li Bai^{\$}, Dimitrios S. Mastrogiannis[@], Chiu C. Tan*, and Jie Wu*

*Dept. of Computer and Information Sciences, Temple University @Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Temple Medical School \$Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Temple University

Background

- Rising cost of healthcare makes tools for improving patient health and efficiency of care of great interest
- Electronic Health Records(EHRs) and Personal Health Records(PHRs) aim to reduce costs by improving health and efficiency

Problems with paper records

- Expensive to maintain
- Not very portable
- Difficult to use data from multiple sources
- No automation possible

Advantages of electronic records

- Cheaper to maintain(after initial setup costs)
- Much more portable
- Easier to combine data from multiple sources
- Makes data usable with other tools/software

Difference between PHR & EHR

- With PHRs the medical record is associated with the patient, not the provider
- The patient is committed to the PHR platform instead of a particular provider
- PHRs are meant to have all the patient's data in one place
- With PHRs the patient controls access to the data

Advantages of PHRs over EHRs

- Attempts to gather all the patient's medical data into a single repository
- Health record stays with the patient even when changing providers
- Patient control of the record leads to greater patient involvement/empowerment

Types of EHRs/PHRs

- Stand alone EHR
- Networked EHR
- Device based PHR
- Networked PHR
- Platform style PHR

Types of EHRs

- Stand alone EHR
 - Mostly replaced with networked EHRs, a simple electronic record keeping system for medical data
- Networked EHR
 - Makes medical records accessible and updateable over the network, allows for automatic importing from other sources

Problems with EHRs

- Difficult to exchange records between providers
 - Providers often unwilling to share records
- Low extensibility
 - Any 3rd party tool must be customized for every EHR
- No decision support

Types of PHRs

- Device based PHR
 - A USB stick or similar device with medical record keeping software, physically very portable
- Networked PHR
 - Similar to networked EHR but the data is controlled by the patient
- Platform style PHR
 - Like networked but makes it easy to incorporate external tools

Problems with device based PHRs

- Updating is done manually
 - The record can become outdated quickly
- Most data needs to be added by the patient
 - Error prone & providers are concerned with liability of using patient entered data
- Security risk if the device is lost
- Can potentially spread malware to provider PCs

Benefits of networked PHRs

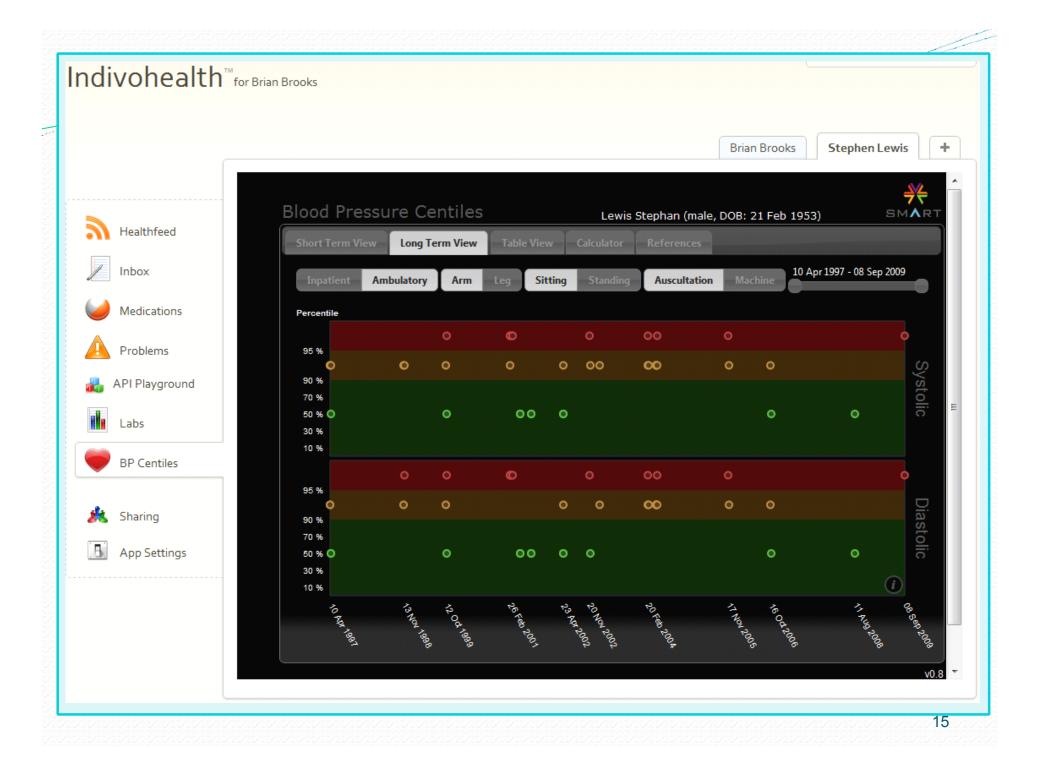
- Can get data from many sources
- Automatic updating is possible
- Patients can easily share as much of their medical record as they want with anyone they choose(e.g. doctors, family)

Benefits of platform style PHRs

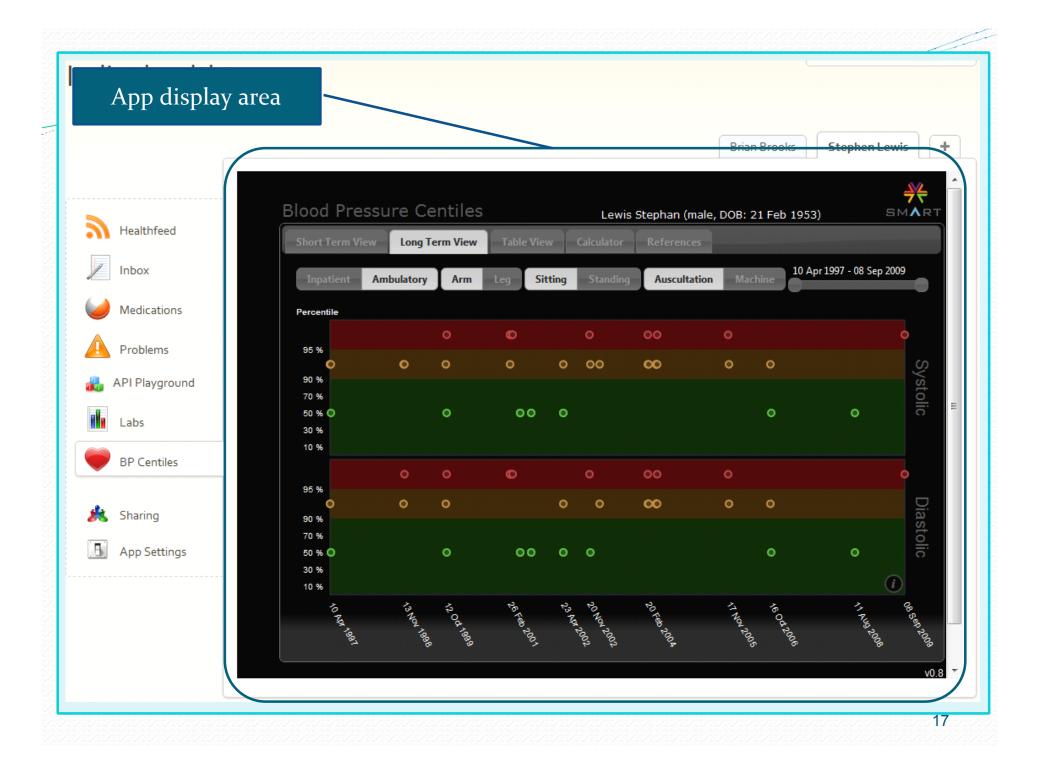
- Highly extensible
 - PHAs developed by many vendors can be freely used
 - Competition between PHA developers drives innovation and reduces costs

Indivo X

- Open source platform style PHR
- Basis for Dossia and MyOscar
- By design documents can never be deleted or modified, only annotated
- Uses OAuth to enable third party apps







OAuth

- Important for platform style PHRs, allows 3rd party PHAs to access the patient's record without the patient giving away their credentials
- Can set permissions per PHA
- PHAs can have permissions granted/revoked with no effect on other PHAs
- Permission can be granted to a subset of the record and have an expiration

SMART Platforms

- Any platform PHR that implements a SMART container can run any SMART PHA with no other modifications
- Developers can write a PHA once and it will be usable with several major PHRs
- Already implemented for Indivo