

Factors Affecting Medical Equipment Maintenance Management: A Systematic Review

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The medical equipment maintenance management is a pivotal issue for the safety and cost of medical devices in order to improve medical devices system targets. We need a comprehensive assessment tool that covers all aspects of medical equipment maintenance management in hospitals. In this regard, identification of influential factors is essential.

Aim: The aim of the present systematic review was to extract the factors affecting the medical equipment maintenance management.

Materials and Methods: We conducted a comprehensive search in databases including OVID, PubMed, ProQuest, Scopus, Embase, Science Direct and web of science without any time limitation until October 2015. The result was updated in June 2017. Inclusion criteria were all studies related to medical equipment maintenance management and mentioning at least one factor that affects this process. Two independent reviewers checked the research process, screening of articles and quality assessment. Quality of

the studies was assessed by QASP and STROBE checklist.

Results: A total of 29 articles were included in this study. All the included articles were in English language. Finally, 89 factors were identified that affect the medical equipment maintenance management. Five of the factors were found related to resources item, 12 factors related to service, four factors related to education, 15 of these factors regarding to quality control, 19 factors related to inspection, 12 factors related to information bank and 22 factors was dedicated to management.

Conclusion: Influential factors (management, resources, information bank, inspection, quality control, education and service) are implicated in decision-making in support of selection, purchase, repair and maintenance of medical equipment, especially for capital equipment managers and medical engineers in hospitals and also for assessment of this process. Identification and classification of influential factors can be of help for raising critical alerts about equipments more prone to maintenance problems.

Keywords: Equipment and supplies, Healthcare system, Medical equipment management system

INTRODUCTION

Medical equipments are an important and necessary component of all healthcare systems. They are introduced and utilised for patient diagnosis and treatment. These medical devices must be kept in safe condition in order to prevent injuries in patients and staff [1-3].

According to the World Health Organization, in the USA in 2010 approximately 412 US dollars were assigned to medical equipment maintenance [4]. Therefore, maintenance management system is critical to improve the reliability of medical equipment and significantly improve safety and cost-efficiency [5]. For example, proper maintenance can increase the life of equipment. Also, this process ensures us about providing appropriate health services and saving the scarce resources. However, many hospitals and healthcare organizations do not benefit from maintenance excellence [6].

Medical Equipment Management System (MEMS) includes the equipment inventory, a work order system, the preventive maintenance schedules/procedures, outsourcing contract management and all service history records. Today, the Clinical and Biomedical Engineering (CE/BME) is responsible for the healthcare asset management and healthcare technology assessment, clinical staff safety, repair and maintenance, risk and safety management, and also contrast monitoring and quality improvement [1-3]. In addition, Computerised Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS) is a fundamental information resource in most healthcare systems to track each piece of equipment and maintain accurate records of inventory and data for medical equipment [5,7,8].

There are two most common approaches for medical equipment

maintenance that includes preventive and the corrective strategies. Preventative Maintenance (PM) is a scheduled process of ensuring medical devices; and the equipment are kept in perfect working conditions. Corrective Maintenance (CM) is repairing and restoration of medical devices that failed to function. These strategies help hospitals to assess or improve maintenance, quality and performance. At this point, hospitals should be considering their capability and situation to apply best maintenance systems for the large number of different medical devices in the equipment management processes [9].

Healthcare organisations should determine the criteria to assess their medical equipment maintenance management. There is a lack of specific and precise tool to assess the process of medical equipment maintenance management in Iranian hospitals. Hence, we extracted the factors affecting the medical equipment maintenance management through a systematic review method.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data Sources and Study Selection

A systematic search of the following databases was conducted between October 11, 2015 to October 14, 2015 in OVID (1860), PubMed (1966), ProQuest (1946), Scopus (1960), Embase (1974-), Science Direct (1823) and Web of Science (1983). The search was updated in June 2017. The search strategy and specific search algorithm varied based on the characteristics of each database. Each database was searched without any limitations. Since the extraction of effective factors did not depend on the type of study, there was no limit in this regard. All studies that mentioned influential factors were included. We searched databases based

on title/abstract using keywords: “medical device”, “medical equipment”, and “maintenance management”.

The reference lists of all retrieved studies were also searched for relevant studies that may have been missed in the database search. The initial selection of studies was performed by the first author (RB), and verified by the last author (LD). Two reviewers (RB and LD) independently screened each record for eligibility by examining titles, abstracts, and full text. In the initial screening, articles were excluded if their titles and/or abstracts were unrelated to medical equipment maintenance management. Since the extraction of effective factors did not depend on the type of study, there were no limitations in this regard. All studies mentioning influential factors were included in this review. Non-English language articles and review conferences were excluded in full text review. We contacted with the corresponding author via e-mail when we could not access to full text of articles.

Quality appraisal and data extraction

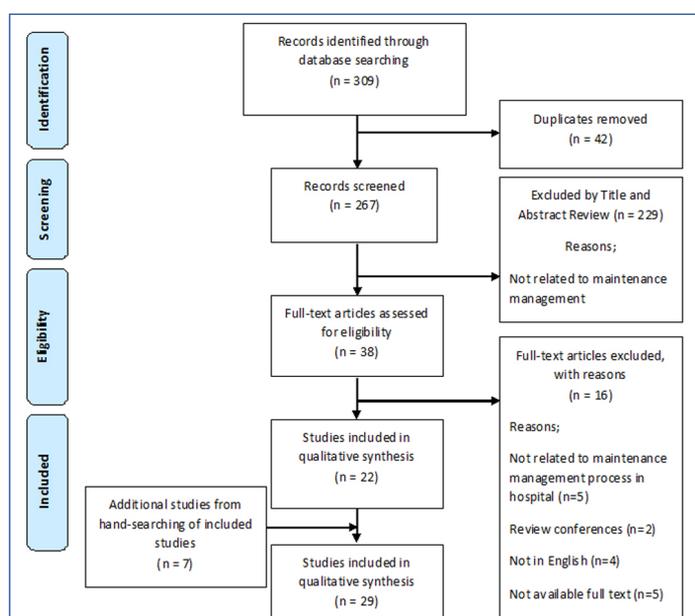
Data extraction was performed by one researcher and was recorded in a data extraction table (RB), which includes information on study title, authors, years of study, country of study, study design, setting, aims of research, study approach, sampling, and factors affecting maintenance management, key findings and quality score. Data were abstracted by one reviewer (RB) and checked by a second reviewer (LD). In case of doubt, data were discussed until agreement was reached (RB, LD). Discrepancies were resolved using consensus. The quality of studies was assessed by two reviewers (RB and LD) using QASP checklist [10] for case studies and STROBE checklist [11] for cross-sectional studies. Studies based on earned score divided into three categories: poor, medium and good quality.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

At first, we extracted the factors, then categorised extracted factor based on Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran (MOHME) framework [12] in each category.

RESULTS

Of 309 potentially relevant articles searched, 42 papers were duplicated. The references of 22 included studies were pearled and seven additional articles were identified. Finally, a total of 29 articles were included in this review [Table/Fig-1]. At first, we extracted the factors, then, categorised extracted factor based on MOHME framework in each category. The summary characteristic



[Table/Fig-1]: PRISMA Flow Diagram of literature search process.

of included studies showed in [Table/Fig-2]. In terms of quality (n=14, 48.27%) studies had a good quality, (n=8, 27.58%) had medium and (n=7, 24.13%) had a poor quality.

All of the identified studies implied at least one of the items and factors affecting medical equipment maintenance management process. Fifteen of the included studies were from the US, while the remaining studies were from other countries (Jordan=3, Canada=3, China=2, Brazil=2, Tunisia, Italy, Taiwan and Iran=1). Of the 29 studies were identified, (n=7, 24.13% were case study, (n=14, 48.27%) cross sectional, (n=2, 6.89%) literature review and 20.68% of them not reported. All included studies were conducted in a hospital setting. The majority of factors mentioned in three studies (Cohen T CN and Cram NBC (2001), Al-Bashir A et al., (2012) and Masmoudi M et al., (2016) The three studies including Cohen and Cram (2001), Al-Bashir A et al., (2012) and Masmoudi M et al., (2016) were reported the highest number of factors [13-15]. In total, 12 studies cited to user training, seventeen to PM, nine to record or documentation and six to CMMS.

The factors extracted from these studies were classified based on information contained in the medical equipment maintenance management criteria of the MOHME [12], including management, resources, service, inspection, quality control, information bank and education. We identified 89 factors repeatedly mentioned in the literature as important determinants of medical equipment maintenance management process. We found five of the factors were significantly related to resources item, 12 related to service, four contains education, 15 of these regarding quality control, 19 related to inspection, 12 related information bank and 22 were dedicated to management factor [Table/Fig-3].

DISCUSSION

This study has identified and extracted all the factors and elements related to the maintenance management and have created a comprehensive view. Twenty-nine studies met the inclusion criteria for this systematic review; however, each of the studies investigated different aspects of the process for medical equipment maintenance management. In other words, the purpose of each of the study was different. All the studies except one of them was conducted in hospital. Most (n=14, 48.2%) studies used cross sectional design. The methodological quality of the papers studied was variable. This review has evaluated a limited number of studies because the number of studies directly referring to this issue were limited. Although, the review has identified several important factors, they should be seen as maintenance management framework.

Based on our study results, we conducted a new classification for medical equipment maintenance management that contains all activities and the factors affecting it. This classification has seven categories include: management, information bank, inspection, quality control, education, resources and service. These categories is in relation to issues such as medical equipment management cycle that starts from the purchase of equipment to management risk, management of spare parts and maintenance priorities, as well as includes a variety of maintenance strategies.

Significant factor in the management category was medical equipment maintenance programs that include predictive maintenance, preventive maintenance, corrective maintenance and scheduled maintenance. In the resource category, the importance of human resources has been mentioned repeatedly. Significant factor in the service category was contract of maintenance. Trained staff was another important factor in maintenance of medical equipment. Documentation and CMMS were two important factors in the information bank. Safety and performance inspection and calibration were important components of quality control.

Information bank refers to data collection, reporting, CMMS, service records and IT. The inspection is associated with safety

Study (year)	Geographic region	Study design	Setting	Quality score	Factors affecting maintenance management
Hamdi N et al., (2012) [5]	Jordan	Cross-sectional	Hospital	Good	Prioritizing maintenance requests: Equipment function, location of use, the load on the hospital containing the failed device, the presence of an alternative to this device in the hospital, time since maintenance request in days, and distance to the nearest hospital containing the same type of device for which maintenance is requested. Equipment quality control: Probability of failure, number of failures, DT per year, and mean service life before first failure, usability, and performance measures
Wang ZH (2014) [7]	China	Not reported	Hospital	Poor	Use of computer network and database information management, maintenance system lag behind, maintenance of equipment and the method of using the backward, devices lack of regular maintenance and management, medical equipment lack of details and ignorance, improper management of medical stall.
Al-Bashir A et al., (2012) [13]	Jordan	Case study	Hospital	Good	Short maintenance period, location and existence of more than workshop, failure response time, nature of maintenance system, safe medical device, high MTBF, training of operators on installation, periodic training of operators, calibration of maintained device, do checkup after maintenance, spare parts availability, spare parts obtaining time, doing PM, existence of redundant device, the presence of a medical engineering specialist, original spare parts. administrative procedures, enough staff, infrastructure and transportation within hospital, existence of work specialty, existence of suitable tools, enough budget, types of spare parts contracts, device strength, meet standards, continuous education and training.
Cohen T CN et al., (2001) [14]	California (US)	Cross-sectional	Healthcare system	Medium	CMMS, failure rate, DT, repair, MC, user/operator training, SM, inspection, work order system, aging, capital budget planning, equipment needs analysis, vendor selection, service provider evaluation, service contract evaluation, installation planning, installation, acceptance, product recalls/alerts, incident or accident investigation, replacement analysis, de-installation, salvage, maintenance requirements, equipment function, physical and clinical risks to the patient, incident history, stock parts, purchasing, warranty work
Masmoudi M (2016) [15]	Tunisia	Case study	Hospital	Good	CM, PM, quality control, selection and monitoring of different contracts, making recommendations for the purchasing of new devices, the training of hospital personnel, maintenance strategy, controls the rate of equipment deterioration, ensures safety, prioritization of medical devices, maintenance planning, visual inspection or basic performance check, contract monitoring, availability of resources, the possibility of training, the availability of tools, the cost of spare parts, and the mean time between failures, complexity and frequency of failures, degree of maintenance complexity, function, risk, level of importance of the mission, age, detectability, frequency of failures, downtime, utilization rate, and availability of alternative devices
Chien CH et al., (2010) [16]	Taiwan	Case study	Hospital	Medium	Intranet in hospital, medical equipment management system, web server of clinical engineering department, receipt, dispatch, user retrieve, close moment, installation verification, warranty inspection, pm, contract management
Oshiyama NF et al., (2014) [17]	Brazil	Cross-sectional	Center for Biomedical Engineering	Good	CM data (number of events, total time and total cost), equipment age
Anderson JT (1992) [18]	California (US)	Review literature	Hospital	Poor	Risk of an equipment failure to patients and staff (risk coding system)
Kresch E KP et al., (1985) [19]	Pennsylvania (US)	Cross-sectional	Hospital	Medium	Electrical safety and functional inspection, calibration, repair, training, documentation system, preventive maintenance, acceptance
Baumeister J (1987) [20]	Oklahoma (US)	Case study	Hospital	Good	Maintenance expense, age equipment, equipment purchases, system design
Bracale M et al., (1994) [21]	Italy	Cross-sectional	Hospital	Medium	MC, trained personnel, organization and co-ordination, personnel, PM, technical documentation, training for physicians and nurses, level of technical know-how, reliable inventory of the existing equipment, information system, draft the 'standards' for the technology requirements
Cohen T (1995) [22]	California (US)	Not reported	Clinical Engineering departments	Poor	Equipment inventory, personnel records, stock parts inventory, vendor business cards, SM procedures in service manuals, data record (paper or computer), risk support capabilities, equipment control section, work orders, scheduling periodic maintenance, parts management, vendor service management, service contract management, maintenance insurance, business/employee directories, quality assurance, productivity, security, reports, utilities
Cram NBC et al., (1998) [23]	Texas (US)	Review	Hospital	Poor	CMMS, control and monitor equipment performance (routine performance testing, initial inspection, prevention maintenance, calibration and verification of performance, repair and action on device recalls and hazards. training programs for all users and biomedical equipment technicians. quality assurance program, equipment maintenance costs, acquisition and replacement decision, new services, planning of new construction and major renovation, risk management
Wang B and Levenson A (2000) [24]	Staten Island (US)	Not reported	Hospital	Medium	Inspection, user training, equipment aging, severity failures, equipment function, physical risk
Kaur R et al., (2005) [25]	Hartford (US)	Case study	Hospital	Good	MEMP: inspection, PM and education of equipment users and maintainers
Wang B et al., (2006) [26]	California (US)	Not reported	Hospital	Poor	SM activities, safety and performance inspection, documentation, user training, failure, calibration, repair and replacement
Kullolli I (2008) [27]	Boston (US)	Not reported	Hospital	Poor	CMMS, PM, training, maintenance history, downtime of a device, parts inventory, purchase orders

Tarawneh W et al., (2009) [28]	Jordan	Cross sectional	Hospital	Good	MEC: Safety, working performance, age, maintenance cost, utilization, up time or down time, operational cost, income value, possibility for upgrading, availability of repair parts, availability of new technology. Medical equipment DT: Availability of spare parts, type of failures accrued, qualification level and experience of biomedical engineers and technicians, equipment priority for servicing, the utilization level and operational load, the working environment condition, the equipment technology level. MC: Cost of spare parts used during corrective and PM, cost of accessories replaced, BMEs labor (work + transportation) cost, all administrative and logistic cost to allocate parts and services, upgrading and modification costs, a training costs. Factors that impact maintenance cost of medical equipment are: Spare parts cost, type of failures accrued, maintenance level used (component/board/module level), labor (man Power + transport) cost, maintenance tool kits and test equipment, routine and planned preventive Maintenance cost
Youssef NF et al., (2009) [29]	Texas (US)	Cross sectional	Hospital	Medium	Equipment maintainability, installation, repair and connectivity
Wang BSCCE et al., (2010) [30]	North Carolina (US)	Cross sectional	Hospital	Good	Unscheduled activities: consist of repairs (or CM) and replacement SM: (SPI), monitoring parameters to predict failures (predictive maintenance) and preventing future failures (PM)
Wang BSCCE et al., (2010) [31]	North Carolina (US)	Cross sectional	Hospital	Good	Maintenance Activities Included: Equipment Acceptance, Operator Check, Safety and Performance Inspection, PM, Repair Replacement. CM, SM
Alves ET et al., (2011) [32]	Brazil	Case study	Clinical engineering company	Good	Types of maintenance: corrective, preventive, calibration and technical analysis MMS: Automatic generation of preventives orders, gradual reduction in corrective maintenances, gradual reduction in correctives into hospital, inventory control, budget management, remote monitoring and qualification. MMS several direct benefits: Time, reduction human error, reduction of cm, inventory control, traceability, quality assessment
Taghipour S et al., (2011) [33]	Canada	Cross sectional	Hospital	Good	RCM,PEMP: Inspection, PM, and testing of medical equipment, classification of medical devices, guidelines Prioritization (Function, Mission criticality, Utilization, Availability of alternative devices, Age, Risk, Failure frequency, Detectability, Failure consequence, Operational, DT, Non-operational, Cost of repair, Safety and environment, Recalls and hazard alerts, Maintenance requirements), maintenance strategies
Taghipour S (2011) [34]	Canada	Cross sectional	Hospital	Good	Performance, risk, resource inputs and cost, MEMP, PM: Acceptance Test, operational check, safety and performance inspection, failure preventive actions: replacement, calibration, lubrication CMMS Core Modules: Inventory control: Work order management system, scheduling/ planning, vendor management, parts management, PM, labor, purchasing, budgeting prioritization of medical devices, field maintenance data, trend test, inspection interval, remarks
Wang BSCCE et al., (2011) [35]	North Carolina (US)	Cross sectional	Hospital	Good	CM, SM, user training, purchase assistance, and acquisition planning
Mokfi T et al. (2011) [36]	Iran	Case study	Hospital	Good	Prioritizing medical equipment, suggesting appropriate PM scheduling, manufacturer data, Failure data, PM data (MTBF, MTTF), experts, priority and risk factors, resultant data, prominent guidance, international standards
Kinley CA (2012) [37]	East Tennessee (US)	Not reported	Hospital	Medium	Electrical safety checks, calibrating, test equipment, PM (parts, cleaning, lubricating, PM sticker) repairs(priority and no priority), incoming inspections, functional checks, evidenced based planning, risk-based planning, equipment history, hospital intranet system, MEMP, maintenance plan, documentation CMMS database (Hospital Equipment ID, Equipment description, device type, manufacturer, model, serial number, assigned technician, SM information, department account, location, risk category, device category, vendor, purchase order number, purchase cost, installation Date: date entered into service, warranty start and end dates) trained staff, contracts, IT
Wang JK (2014) [38]	China	Cross sectional	Hospital	Poor	Management system lags behind, lack of regular maintenance and management, maintenance methods out of date, medical engineering technicians serious erosion, the selection of instruments and equipment parameter, acceptance of the instrument, staff training, management records, implement scientific management method, levels of education, skills and narrow scope in personnel
Ibey AAMMPCCCE et al., (2015)[39]	Canada	Cross sectional	Clinical engineering department	Medium	Aspects of a CMMS: Assets, work orders, internal and external service records, PM schedules, warranty periods, parts inventory, service contract and purchasing information, quality assurance, reporting, cost control, and alerts and hazards

[Table/Fig-2]: Characteristics of included studies.

MTBF: Mean Time Between Failures, PM: Preventive Maintenance, CMMS: Computerized Maintenance Management Systems, MEMS: Medical Equipment Management System, CED: Clinical Engineering Department, DT: Down Time, MC: Maintenance Cost, BMEs: Biomedical Engineers, CM: Corrective Maintenance, SM: Scheduled Maintenance, MMS: Maintenance Management System, RCM: Reliability Centered Maintenance, MEMP: Medical Equipment Management Program, MTTF: Mean Time To Failures, MEC: Medical Equipment Condition

and performance inspection, spare parts availability, cost control, infrastructure, administrative procedures and productivity, utilities. Acceptance test, quality assurance program, security, calibration and technical analysis, risk factors, electrical safety checks, safe medical device and alerts and hazards are in quality control. Education refers to training programs, trained staff and level of technical know-how. The sources include existence of work specialty, enough staff, assets and enough budgets. Eventually,

service items include age equipment, maintenance cost, work orders, service contract management, down time, repairs and replacement, failure data and acquisition and replacement decision.

According to studies carried out by Cohen T CN et al., (2001), Kresch E KP et al., (1985), Cohen T (1995), Cram NBC et al., (1998), Kullolli (2008) and Ibey AAMMPCCCE et al., (2015) was determined that the computerized maintenance management system is one of the

Items	Factors affecting the medical equipment maintenance management	
Management	Equipment purchases System design Organization and coordination Equipment control section Parts management Vendor service management Service contract management Maintenance insurance Business/employee directories Prioritizing maintenance requests Control and monitor equipment Performance	Planning of new Construction and major renovation MEMP RCM Predictive maintenance PM CM SM Acquisition planning Work order management system Evidenced based planning Risk-based planning
Resources	Existence of work specialty Enough staff Existence of administrative person	Using assets Enough budget
Information bank	CMMS Prominent guidance, international Standards Manufacturer data Equipment history Failure data Hospital intranet system Documentation	IT Computer network and Database information Management Internal and external Service records Service contract and Purchasing information Reporting
Service	Age equipment MC Work orders Service contract management Acquisition and replacement decision Medical equipment DT	Repairs and replacement Work order management system Failure data Failure response time High MTBF Types of spare parts Contracts
Inspection	Equipment and stock parts inventory Medical equipment condition Equipment acceptance Operator check Installation verification Warranty inspection Safety and performance inspection Incoming inspections Spare parts availability Functional checks	Location and existence of More than workshop Spare parts obtaining time Cost control Existence of redundant Device Original spare parts Administrative procedures Infrastructure & Transportation within Hospital Existence of suitable tools Productivity, utilities
Education	Training of operators on installation Trained staff	Training programs Level of technical know-How
Quality control	Test equipment Acceptance test Technical inspection (safety, Operational and calibration checks) Risk support capabilities Quality assurance program Security Risk management	SPI Equipment quality control Calibration and technical Analysis Risk factors Electrical safety checks Safe medical device Do checkup after Maintenance Alerts and hazards

[Table/Fig-3]: Categorisation of factors affecting medical equipment maintenance management process based on Iranian MoH criteria.

MTBF: Mean Time Between Failures, PM: Preventive Maintenance, CMMS: Computerized Maintenance Management Systems, DT: Down Time, MC: Maintenance Cost, CM: Corrective Maintenance, SM: Scheduled Maintenance, RCM: Reliability Centered Maintenance, MEMP: Medical Equipment Management Program

important and effective factors in the implementation maintenance management [14,19,22, 23,27,39]. Studies showed that the procurement of computerised maintenance management system should be the goal of all clinical engineering departments. Indeed, CMMS implies the importance of documenting and reporting requirements related to maintenance management process.

According to the findings, in the medical equipment maintenance procedures, the PM is mentioned repeatedly among the factors affecting maintenance management process. PM is one of the main functions of the biomedical engineering department. Nearly half of the studies indicated that doing preventive maintenance was necessary for most medical devices [13,15,16,21,25,27,28,30,31,33,34,36,37,39].

According to our findings, user training is one of the main components of maintenance management. Many studies have mentioned the importance of existence of trained force and having a training program for physicians and other users. Factors related to user training were frequently mentioned in most studies [13-15,19, 21,23,24,27,29,35,37,38].

SM is one of the maintenance activities that consist of SPI, PM and predictive maintenance. Approximately most studies have referred to one of these [14,22,26,30,31,37].

Unscheduled activities consist of repairs or (CM) and replacement that cannot be planned and scheduled. According to studies CM activities required for all kinds of medical equipment [15,17,30-32,35]. This is consistent with our findings.

As our findings also indicated, three studies mentioned a clinical engineering department needs to create and maintain a MEMP [25,33,37]. This document will outline all policies and procedures required. This plan including acquisition planning, evidenced based planning and risk-based planning.

Documentation is one of the important factors in maintenance management, which studies point to the importance of this factor [19,21,26,37]. Proper documentation is necessary for a successful biomedical engineering department. Equipment history, manufacturer data, failure data, service contract and purchasing information must be clearly documented.

Having enough staff is a must for any biomedical engineering department to be successful which was confirmed by our findings. As well as Al-Bashir A et al., (2012) considers providing sufficient staff to be the basis for maintenance management [13].

According to the findings, maintenance cost is a critical factor that should be taken into consideration when deciding to replace medical equipment [15,17,23,28,33,34,37,39]. MC include all maintenance costs such as cost of spare parts used during corrective and PM, cost of accessories replaced, BMEs labor (work + transportation) cost, all administrative and logistic cost to allocate parts and services, upgrading and modification costs and training costs.

The study of Chien CH et al., showed that maintenance practices are one of the medical equipment management sub-systems which is associated with other sub-systems, i.e., the basic information, procurement, acceptance, discard, installation verification, warranty inspection, prevent maintenance, and contract management [16]. Also, another study that was conducted by Youssef NF and Hyman WA, in Texas, cited to maintenance management elements such as parts, install, health record system, equipment selection and acquisition, equipment maintenance programs, training programs for clinical users and biomedical technicians, and risk management, performance testing, inspection, preventive maintenance, repair, equipment classified, control and monitoring of equipment performance [29]. Many studies have pointed to a variety of maintenance strategies. In fact, maintenance activities have different types: corrective maintenance, preventive maintenance, quality control, selection and monitoring of different contracts with suppliers, subcontractors, and service companies and making recommendations for the purchasing of new devices and the training of hospital personnel.

Medical equipment maintenance management includes equipment age, physical risk to patients, maintenance requirements, availability

of maintenance tools, and availability of competent staff, warranty periods, parts inventory and other factors. In addition, some factors were overlapping with each other. For example, some of the factors related to quality control item were in common with the item inspection, such as: acceptance test, Safety and Performance Inspection (SPI) and functional checks. A number of factors related to management section overlap with service item, such as: work order management system, service contract management, types of spare parts contracts, vendor service management, acquisition and replacement decision. Factors affecting medical equipment maintenance management are important in priority equipment for the purchase, repair and maintenance and also in a cost effective hospital management. Thus, it can be concluded that all seven items of medical equipment maintenance management related to each other and are interdependent. The present systematic review extracted the influential factors from studies that are related to maintenance management context but similar studies not to be done. Therefore, there is a need for studies in this field because the other factors should be identified and evaluated.

LIMITATION

One of the most important limitations is lack of fluency in other languages to use the results of Non-English language studies. Perhaps, more factors could be identified if the results of Non-English studies could be added. Lack of access to full-texts of some article was also another limitation.

CONCLUSION

This systematic review of the literature has found evidence that human resource training, medical equipment maintenance programs, contract of maintenance, safety and performance inspection and calibration, documentation and CMMS are critical factors in medical equipment maintenance management. This review has also introduced a certain classification for medical equipment maintenance management, which in fact has provided some useful information to provide a framework as an asset to this process. All the items involved in the process of assessing the status of maintenance of medical equipment has to be considered in order to make the right decisions for future operations.

We conclude that considering a maintenance management process brings direct benefits to a medical engineering sector. The most significant finding of this review is the need for further research in the field of maintenance of medical devices, as indicated by the gaps in existing research detailed above.

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