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## Editorial:

# THE INFORMATICS NEPHROLOGY: A NEW DISCIPLINE

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### Version española

Between the end of the last century and the beginning of the current one, it has been developing a new discipline, the Health and Biomedical Informatics (HBI), which is in charge of capturing, handling and using information in these areas (health and biomedicine) in order to improve the communication processes between the different parties involved with assistance as well as those related with the management and quality of health.

Informatics nephrology has appeared as a product of the combination between conventional nephrology with HBI and its development has been considerable in the assistance as well as in the academic field. Within its main constitutive elements we find:

- **electronic medical chart (EMC): an electronic record which allows for the integration of all patient's information in only one file.**

- **support system for medical decision making: they are programs additional to the EMC which help with the medical tasks to reduce the risk error.**
- **personal health records: an electronic application which people can access, administrate and share their renal and health information in general, with others who are authorized for it and in a safe, private and confidential environment.**
- **recording and monitoring devices: the new hemodialysis machines and cyclers for peritoneal treatment have the possibility of being technologically fitted with devices that allow the continuous monitoring of certain parameters of the patient so as to get a better care of the person during the dialytic session.**
- **tele-nephrology: it is the remote nephrological assistance of the patient using methods such as the phone, e-mail and/or videoconference.**

**There is increasing evidence that informatics technology can make nephrological assistance to become of a better quality and cost-effectiveness. Additionally, regarding the academic field, it has been documented that informatics and internet contribute to education and research.**

**In conclusion, informatics nephrology represents a new sub-specialty which will change nephrology in this century.**

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