Exploring stakeholder perspectives on integrating a stroke caregiver mHealth app in the Malaysian healthcare system: Findings from a qualitative study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: A stroke mHealth app is designated as a scalable solution in helping caregivers manage home-based stroke patients by providing education, information, and support. The purpose of this study is to identify key points to be considered for the successful implementation and integration of this app into the Malaysian healthcare system. **Methods:** A series of focus group discussions led by experienced moderators were conducted in three separate sessions with the participation of invited parties including stroke stakeholders (Ministry of Health, National Health Department, Legal Advisor, Malaysian Stroke Council, National Stroke Association of Malaysia (NASAM)), representatives of app developer (Doc2Us) and caregivers from the period of August 2022 to February 2023. The first session involved 8 participants; the second session with 16 participants; and the last session of 10 participants. **Results:** Most stakeholders seem to have a supportive attitude towards the integration of mHealth. Four themes emerged from these sessions: (1) App Benefits for Caregivers and providers; (2) App Development Challenges; (3) App Performance and Risk; and (4) App Enhancement and Iteration. **Conclusion:** The stakeholders recognized the advantages of mHealth integration in the Malaysian healthcare system. However, significant obstacles that they perceived could hinder the use of mHealth. This study demonstrates the need for strategies that foster cooperation between various stakeholders to successfully integrate mHealth into the Malaysian healthcare system.