

ABC OF HEALTH INFORMATICS

ABC OF HEALTH INFORMATICS

FRANK SULLIVAN

*NHS Tayside professor of research and development in general practice and primary care,
University of Dundee*

JEREMY C WYATT

Professor of health informatics, University of Dundee

BMJ
Books

 **Blackwell**
Publishing

© 2006 by Blackwell Publishing Ltd
BMJ Books is an imprint of the BMJ Publishing Group Limited, used under licence

Blackwell Publishing, Inc., 350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5020, USA
Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, UK
Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd, 550 Swanston Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia

The right of the Author to be identified as the Author of this Work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as permitted by the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, without the prior permission of the publisher.

First published 2006

1 2006

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Sullivan, Frank (Frank M.)

ABC of health informatics/Frank Sullivan, Jeremy C. Wyatt.

p. ; cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7279-1850-5 (alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 0-7279-1850-8 (alk. paper)

1. Medical informatics. I. Wyatt, J. (Jeremy) II. Title.

[DNLM: 1. Medical Informatics. W 26.5 S949a 2006]

R858.S85 2006

610.28—dc22

2005037646

ISBN-13: 978 0 7279 1850 5

ISBN-10: 0 7279 1850 8

A catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library

Cover image is courtesy of Mark Garlick/Science Photo Library

Set by BMJ Electronic Production

Printed and bound in Singapore by COS Printers Pte Ltd

Commissioning Editor: Eleanor Lines

Editorial Assistant: Victoria Pittman

Development Editor: Sally Carter/Nick Morgan

Production Controller: Debbie Wyer

For further information on Blackwell Publishing, visit our website:

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com>

The publisher's policy is to use permanent paper from mills that operate a sustainable forestry policy, and which has been manufactured from pulp processed using acid-free and elementary chlorine-free practices. Furthermore, the publisher ensures that the text paper and cover board used have met acceptable environmental accreditation standards.

Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	vii
1 What is health information?	1
2 Is a consultation needed?	4
3 Why is this patient here today?	7
4 How decision support tools help define clinical problems	10
5 How computers can help to share understanding with patients	13
6 How informatics tools help deal with patients' problems	16
7 How computers help make efficient use of consultations	19
8 Referral or follow-up?	22
9 Keeping up: learning in the workplace	25
10 Improving services with informatics tools	29
11 Communication and navigation around the healthcare system	32
12 eHealth and the future: promise or peril?	35
Glossary	39
Index	43

