

'Hospitals must streamline medical records'

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Pune: In a bid to provide opportunities to organisations for supporting the health care industry, the 10th annual national conference on health information, medico legal management and documentation brought together around 250 delegates from all over the country at the Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital (ABMH) on Friday.

S P Singh, CEO of ABMH, said, "Health information and medico legal management and documentation is an evolving area in India and needs the attention of experts."

Stressing on the growing importance of medical records man-

agement, C Govindarajan, president of the Health Records Association of India, said, "Winds of change have swept through the Indian hospital scenario in the recent years, and medical records management is not an exception. The advancement in information technology, stringent quality control measures in the accreditation process of health care institutions and legal implications have made it imperative for the maintenance of medical records in every hospital."

The current procedures adopted in the existing medical records department might have been effective when it was implemented, but the need of the hour is an in-depth study

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of the existing procedures and to streamline them, he added.

Around 25 sessions were held,

where national and regional speakers provided their perspectives on health care documentation and health care IT.

Impact of IT on the health information management and professionals, forensic statutory documentation, forensic nursing documentation, ethical issues, policy and judiciary compliance, etc., were the highlights of the conference. Eminent panellists discussed medico legal issues and documentation process in the health care industry. The discussion aimed at strengthening and updating the role of medical records, especially through information technology and communication