

GemsTracker

Background

GemsTracker was originally used as a respondent tracking system for clinical trials and population studies at the department of Public Health. Within the department a growing demand was seen for health research during the healthcare process (Research at the workplace). In collaboration with the Department of Plastic Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine of Erasmus MC and the Xpert Clinic the development of GemsTracker started. With funding from the Coolsingel Foundation the existing software could be made more suitable for use in research and qualityregistrations in the healthcare process.

Open source

Initially GemsTracker was designed as an extension to the functionality of the questionnaire package LimeSurvey. LimeSurvey is an open source, web-based application in which questionnaires can be built, completed, processed and distributed (www.limesurvey.org). GemsTracker is now an independent system which can communicate with different questionnaire systems (including LimeSurvey). In September 2011, the software was published (new BSD licence) in the open source community to promote the transparency of code, continuous improvement of the quality and wide availability at a low cost to healthcare providers and research institutions.

Basic use The GemsTracker software, allows organizations to have their own secure data collection site where data can be accessed, submitted and modified. GemsTracker can be seen as a 'toolbox' for setting up your own data collection system. Normaly one site corresponds to one research study but it is also possible to run multiple studies on one site simultaneously. Additionally, different organisations can use the same site but share the same measurement tracks. In this case data for each organization is separately stored and visualized for it's users. This way, a GemsTracker site is used as a (national) database for quality registrations or research. For each organization the GemsTracker site can be modified according to the style and required functionality of the organization.

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