

Individual Home Exam IN5330/IN9330 Spring 2022

Please respond to **each of the three** discussion points in the assignment below, preferably under separate headings. Please assume that the reader is familiar with the course curriculum. Refer to concepts and models from lecture slides and the course literature as you see fit. You can assume that your audience is already familiar with the course literature, concepts and models. The exam submission should contain **no more than 3500 words** excluding title page, table of contents and references.

Assignment

Health information is fragmented across different health programs, organizations, disciplines, sectors, and geography. Read the article "[Beyond Ebola: a new agenda for resilient health systems](#)" from 2015. The authors argue that we can learn from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to prepare for the future. A key argument presented in the article is that the health sector and the delivery of health services is too *fragmented*. Similar arguments have been made with reference to health management information systems, as these tend to mirror the fragmentation of the health services and programs.

- 1) What do you see as key benefits of integrated health management information systems? (25% of total grade)
- 2) IT, software, and standards can facilitate health data integration. Why is integration so challenging to achieve and what are the limitations with technical tools and resources? (25% of total grade)
- 3) The spread of Ebola, COVID-19 and other rampant diseases pose a global public health threat. What can we learn from the *Beyond Ebola* article regarding information systems responsiveness to such threats? What do you perceive as the key tensions or tradeoffs in terms of a selective versus a comprehensive approach to health information systems strengthening? (50% of total grade)

You may refer to relevant news articles, research papers or official reports and web pages to support or illustrate your argument/discussion. Engage with the course literature where this is relevant.