

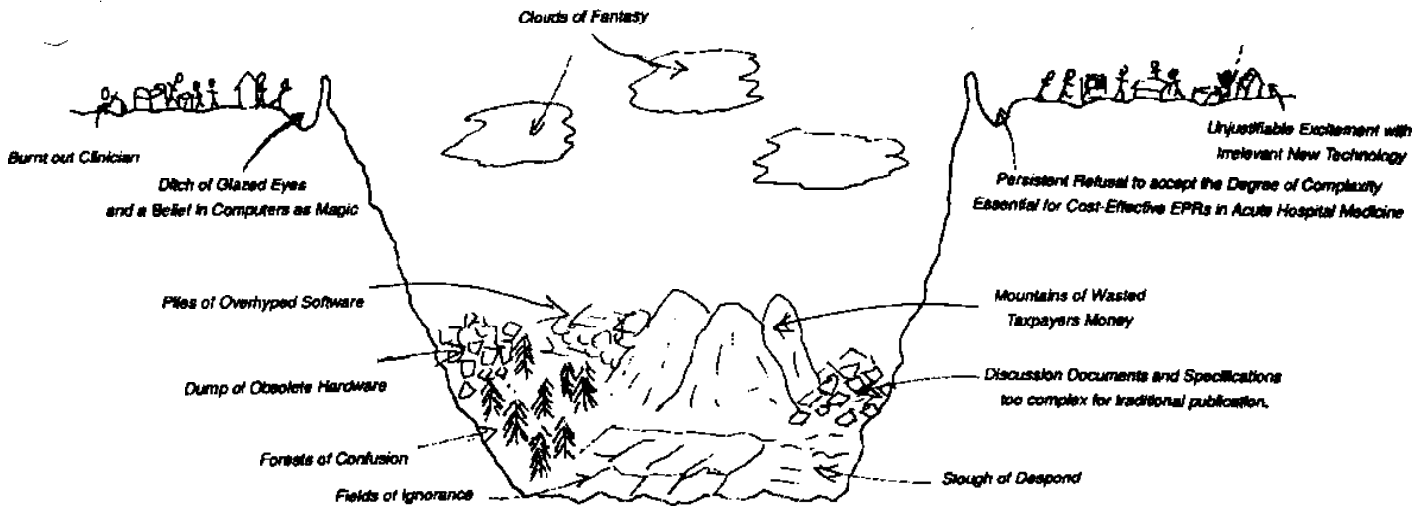
My conclusions after

29 years Experience of Electronic Patient Records in Maternity Care

*Essence of a Lecture given at the request of Susan Bewley, Clinical Director,
Maternity Department, Guy's and St.Thomas' Hospitals, 22nd April 2004*

World of Acute Hospital Medicine

World of NHS - Information Technology



Chasm of Partially Explored but Virtually Uncharted Territory

*Few Skilled Map Makers with Appropriate Ability; Almost all, so far, Unacknowledged and Unfunded
i.e. Clinicians with (a) years of front line clinical experience, (b) with an intuitive grasp of how complex flow-patterned databases work
and therefore what IT can, and cannot offer, in acute - more than one office - hospital/community medicine and
(c) an obsessive willingness to spend hours and hours at the computer .
Possibly no more than 5-10 such individuals in the U.K.*

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Computers are not Magic.

Extremely flexible in Creation.

Extremely rigid forever afterwards.

The cost of Software Creation and Modification depends on the number of purchasers

Individual hospitals, or even whole NHS regions (or countries),
will never, ever be able to have computer systems, which have both

a) HIGH QUALITY and

b) MORE THAN MINIMAL LOCAL TAILORING.

**ONE; or the OTHER
NEVER, EVER, BOTH!**