Study	Theory and methods	Objective	Constructs	Key contributions
Zhong et al [9]	Retrospective	To study portal	Portal adoption	Adoption of portals does not
	observational study	function use	(account opened	necessarily translate into
	of patients using	and impacts on	and kept activated);	use.
	portals (n=46,544)	service use and	use: messaging,	• Patients with active health
		appointment	laboratory,	issues or other factors adopt
		adherence of	appointment, and	portals less but use them
		primary care	medication	more.
		patients	functions;	
			outcomes: rates of	
			primary care office	
			visits	
Graham et al [3]	Two surveys, patients	To study user	Portal use, health	Portal use influenced
	using portals	satisfaction and	system use, no	positive patient experience,
	(n=4296)	influence of	show rates	decreased health system use
		portal use on		and rate of missed
		medical		appointments
		appointment		
		attendance		
Silver et al [15]	TAM ^a and UTAUT2 ^b ;	To study the	Portal satisfaction,	Positive association between
	survey of patients at	factors that	portal use, health-	portal satisfaction and
	university health	influence portal	seeking behaviors,	health-seeking behaviors
	center (n=1142)	satisfaction	social influence,	and portal use and the
			habit, facilitating	antecedent conditions from
			conditions, effort	key constructs (TAM and
			expectancy, and	UTAUT2)
			performance	
			expectancy	
McAlearney	Qualitative,	To understand	Inpatient and	Inpatient portals are
et al [10]	interviews of patients	patient	outpatient portals,	beneficial for improving care
	using portals during	perceptions of	benefits and risks	and communicating
	hospitalization	inpatient and		information.
	(n=120)	outpatient		Convenience, access to
		portals		information, and better

Multimedia Appendix 1. Key articles on patient portal use.

				engagement in care are
				benefits
Hoogenbosch	UTAUT ^c , cross-	To study portal	Performance	One-third of the patients
et al [20]	sectional survey	use prevalence	expectancy, effort	using portal expressed
	(n=439)	and influence of	expectancy, social	patient satisfaction; UTAUT
		characteristics	influence,	factors influenced portal use
		on portal use	facilitating	
			conditions,	
			behavioral	
			intention to use,	
			and demographics	
Dumitrascu	Retrospective	To study if	Portal use, 30-day	Patient portal use did not
et al [22]	propensity score	patient portal	readmissions,	have significant influence on
	matching study	use during	inpatient mortality,	hospital outcomes (30-day
	(n=7538)	hospitalization	and 30-day	readmission, inpatient
		improves	mortality	mortality, and 30-day
		hospital		mortality)
		outcomes		
Aljabri et al [1]	Retrospective review	To study portal	Demographics: age,	• Half of the patients with
	of patients with	adoption and	sex, marital status,	cancer adopted portal;
	cancer (n=4594)	use,	income, portal	demographics (eg, age,
		associations	adoption, portal	gender, marital status, and
		with selected	use, disease	income) and need (eg,
		safety, use, and	severity, and	nonlocal residence and
		satisfaction	residence	disease severity) increased
		measures for		portal adoption
		hospitalized		
		patients with		
		cancer		
Al-Ramahi and	Patient ratings in	To study users'	User ratings as	Key features for portal use
Noteboome [23]	MyChart (n=500), n-	reviews of	proxies for user	relate to ease of use; others
	gram analysis	mobile patient	satisfaction, word-	include scheduling
		portal and to	level n-grams for	appointments and calendar.
		identify	analysis	• <i>Touch ID</i> is important as
		features		well.
		associated with		

		patient		
		satisfaction		
Winstanley et al [13]	Convenience sample	To evaluate	Ease of use,	MyChart Bedside helped
	of patients (n=88)	inpatient	communication	patients to understand
		experiences	with nurses and	medications and
		with MyChart	physicians, and	communicate with their
		Bedside	understanding	provider
		(portal)	medications	
Fix et al [11]	Qualitative,	To examine	Marketing efforts,	Patient portal adoption is
	convenience sample;	factors	administrative	worthwhile; diverse
	4 patient focus	affecting	barriers, and	stakeholder perspectives
	groups, and one-on-	enrollment in a	logistical barriers	need to be taken into
	one interviews	patient portal		account for portal adoption
		at patient-		
		centered		
		medical homes		
Lin et al [6]	Randomized	To study the	Portal use, patient	Portal's convenience for
	controlled trial	impact of a	satisfaction, and	communicating and
	(n=606)	patient portal	communication	messaging valued by portal
		on patients'		group; increased satisfaction
		satisfaction		with communication and
		with access to		overall care
		clinic and care;		
		to study		
		communication		
		characteristics		
		(email and		
		telephone calls)		
		from patients		
		to clinic		
Hassol et al [7]	Patients in Geisinger	To evaluate	User satisfaction,	Positive attitudes toward
	Health System	patients' values	ease of use,	EHR and satisfaction with
	(n=4282)	and	communication	completeness and accuracy
		perceptions	preferences,	of medical information, but
		regarding web-	completeness of	there are mild concerns
		based		

		communication	EHR, and accuracy	about privacy and
		with their	of the EHR	confidentiality
		primary care		
		providers while		
		accessing EHR ^d		
Dendere	Review article; meta-	To review	Patient portals for	Categorized studies in input-
et al [12]	analysis of other	studies on	EMR, patient	process-output framework
	articles	patient portals	engagement, and	as predictors of portal use
		connected with	health care delivery	and engagement.
		EMR ^e , role in		Patient portals improve
		patient		adherence to medication and
		engagement,		discovery of medical errors,
		and impact on		improving provider-patient
		health care		communication
		delivery for		
		identifying		
		factors and best		
		practices for		
		portal		
		implementation		
Kruse et al [21]	Review article,	To identify	Positive and	Positive: patient-provider
	CINAHL and PubMed	characteristics	negative	communication.
	databases (n=27	of portals	perceptions	Negative: security concerns
	articles)	deemed		and user-friendliness.
		favorable and		Review reveals mixed
		those deemed		attitudes of patients with
		needs		chronic conditions regarding
		improvement		portal use.
		by patients and		
		providers		
Goldzweig	Review article,	To study the	Portal use,	Insufficient evidence for
et al [17]	PubMed and Web of	effect of patient	efficiency, use, and	patient portal influence on
	Science databases	portals on	demographics	health outcomes, cost, and so
	(1990-2013)	clinical care		on
Rozenblum	Review article,	To explore the	HIT use and patient	• HIT is a promising tool, but
et al [24]	PubMed searched	impact of HIT ^f	satisfaction	findings regarding

from inception to	on patient	association of HIT with
May 2010 (n=56	satisfaction	patient satisfaction are
articles)		inconsistent

^aTAM: Technology Acceptance Model.

^bUTAUT2: Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology 2.

^cUTAUT: Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology.

^dEHR: electronic health record.

^eEMR: electronic medical record.

^fHIT: health information technology.