

## DO&IT Seminar Series

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**Speaker:** Nirup M. Menon, Associate Professor, George Mason University

**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012

**Time:** 2-3:30 pm

**Location:** Room 1335

**Title:** The Impact of Healthcare Information Technology on Malpractice Claims Risk and its Link to the Quality of Patient Care

**Abstract:** We analyze the impact of healthcare information technology (HIT) on malpractice claims risk and quality of patient care in hospitals. Based on archival data on costs, operations, and patient care outcomes of 71 hospitals in the U.S. State of Washington from 1998 to 2007, our findings indicate that HIT is not associated with malpractice claims risk as measured by malpractice insurance premium. HIT is positively associated with the quality of health care, as measured by complications rate. Higher insurance claims risk is associated with higher quality, which may indicate that hospitals practice defensive medicine when faced with insurance claims risk. However, HIT moderates the relationship between insurance claims risk and quality in a manner that leads to poorer quality. This leads us to conclude that HIT may be reducing the practice of defensive medicine. We attribute this moderating effect to the confidence afforded to hospitals by better record keeping through HIT.

**Bio:** Nirup Menon is an associate professor of information systems at the School of Management, George Mason University. He has previously taught at the Instituto de Empresa Business School in Madrid (Spain), the University of Texas at Dallas, and Texas Tech University. He has a PhD in information systems from the University of Arizona. He recently conducted research on information security at the University of Oulu, Finland, as a visiting scholar. Nirup's research interests are business value of information technology, healthcare information technology, and information security and privacy. He has published one book and over fifteen peer-reviewed articles in various journals.