
Central West LHIN

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Using technology to improve access to care

May 2013 - More physicians and specialists in the Central West LHIN are moving to an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system to manage patient information. As of December 2012, over 76% of family physicians and 49% of specialists have switched from paper records to EMR, which is the highest rate of adoption among family practitioners and specialists in the province.

Dr. Sanjeev Goel runs the Wise Elephant Family Health Team in Brampton which has been completely paperless since 2009. Not only is the management of patient records more efficient, but EMRs enable physicians to share information with other health care providers, he says.

"Lab tests and specialist results can be shared electronically within days, which allows us to provide patients with information faster," he explains. "Patients can even allow their pharmacists to view the information electronically which allows for renewals of prescriptions. It also reduces errors because now, reading the physician's handwriting becomes a non-issue."

In Dufferin County, Dr. Dan Mallin from the Dufferin Area Family Health Team (DAFHT) says EMR system has improved patient care. "The EMR has enabled us to communicate electronically with a variety of health care providers and has facilitated easy storage and retrieval of information," he says. "We are now able to easily and quickly store hospital, lab and imaging reports".

Primary Care Lead for the Central West LHIN, Dr. Frank Martino says physicians are embracing this innovation.

"My colleagues and I could never go back to paper," he says. "The EMR has added efficiency that allows me to manage my diabetic patients better, ensures more effective cancer screening and disease prevention. It also really improves the patient's journey by linking Health Service Providers to share information."

In order to support the adoption of EMR, the Central West LHIN facilitated sessions with physicians to provide information about the benefits of moving to a paperless environment.



HEALTH CARE UPDATE

“EMR adoption meets one of the key priorities in our third Integrated Health Services Plan (IHSP 3) which is Streamlining Transitions and Navigation of the System,” says Scott McLeod, CEO of the Central West LHIN. “This includes supporting the use of technology and improving linkages among Health Service Providers so they have access to the patient information they need.”

EMR adoption is part of Ontario’s eHealth initiative and strongly supports the provincial strategy to implement an Electronic Health Record (EHR) by 2015.

The Central West LHIN plans, funds and integrates health care services for the communities of Brampton, Caledon, Dufferin County, Malton, Rexdale and Woodbridge.

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