

## Enabling Transfer of Patient Records Within Seconds Rather Than Weeks

(July 25, 2012) The South East LHIN, in partnership with the Champlain LHIN and eHealth Ontario, will expand the use of an electronic Clinical Document Repository (CDR) that stores and delivers patients' discharge summaries and diagnostic imaging reports to their physicians within seconds rather than weeks.

Since first going live as a pilot project at Brockville General Hospital (BGH) in May, 2011, the CDR has enabled the hospital to send out an average of 300 reports per week that can be accessed by the patient's receiving physician within seconds, rather than the one to two week lag time it takes for reports to travel between doctors the old fashioned way. In addition, the reports are immediately integrated into the appropriate patient file electronically, reducing workload and the possibility of error. The data repository is absolutely confidential and secure, and the new system has significantly reduced the flow of paper documents between hospitals and other family physicians that used to receive large volumes of patient records and process them manually.

While the electronic document repository has already resulted in significant time and cost savings for physicians and their staff, it also means more coordinated and efficient care for the patient within the South East and Champlain LHINs. The CDR system enables critical patient information to arrive in the hands of primary care physicians in advance of the discharged patient's arrival – something that is not always the case when relying on traditional document management.

Having performed so well at BGH, the CDR will now be extended to ten more hospitals within the two LHINs over the next 18 months, thereby ensuring that many more local physicians will be able to use this service to provide an improved quality of care to their patients. Expansion will not only be geographical, but will also increase the types of reports that can be managed. In addition to the discharge summaries that are currently available, the CDR will manage specialized reports from a variety of health service providers that can be shared online.

Champlain LHIN CIO Glenn Alexander says that once all primary care physicians have the clinical management systems in place, overall workload will be reduced by about forty percent. "The system minimizes the significant time and resources currently needed as part of the traditional document management process, including manual sorting, scanning, faxing, scanning at the receiving end, and manually attaching the new document to a patient's record," he added.

The Clinical Document Repository solution was envisioned by the LHINs, implemented by BGH and financially supported by eHealth Ontario.

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