

Connecting Primary Care Providers and Hospitals

The challenge

As a physician, your clinic already uses an EMR system that electronically stores patient records. The xwaveEMR has significantly reduced the time your staff spends on administrative tasks. However, when a patient is admitted to the hospital, critical information—such as test results—remain within the hospital's information system (HIS). These reports must be faxed or scanned and sent by email to the patient's primary health care provider, and the clinic manually updates the patient's EMR.

The xwaveEMR solution

The xwave interface technology eliminates silos of information contained within the hospital and primary care clinic. Data from the HIS is interfaced to the clinic's EMR system in near real time and provides clinician's a complete patient care profile that is controlled, secure, and accessible.

The xwaveEMR system interfaces with HIS, uploading data in real time. Information stored in the hospitals systems, such as Meditech, is converted to transferable data using HL7 MDM Messaging. Once converted to HL7, these messages are filtered through an interface engine, such as Cloverleaf, and uploaded to the clinic's EMR system. This transmission occurs in real time, updating the patient's EMR with record of hospital admission or discharge, microbiology and radiology results, and consultation reports.

The interface solution offered by xwave also has the capacity to receive data from multiple hospitals for the same patient. Using HL7 messaging, the interface interprets the data so that duplicate records are not populated into the patient's EMR. Furthermore, the transmission of data is bilateral and updates the HIS with pertinent data from the patient's EMR at the clinician site. The interface relies on specific algorithms to filter the data and ensures only information useful to the hospital is transferred.

The outcome: Fluid exchange of information, lower admin costs, and better collaboration

The interface allows for a fluid exchange of information between laboratories or hospitals and the general practitioner. The administrative costs attached to manual reports are reduced drastically and meaningful information is received much faster.

Physicians like Dr. Greg Higgins, Prince Edward Family Health Team, report a significant decline in their administrative tasks:

"...the amount of paper coming into my office has been reduced by about 60%. This has significantly reduced the workload on my staff... we are now receiving reports from Meditech in near real time which are automatically inserted into the correct location within the patient's chart."

The ultimate benefit is this solution enables better collaboration between the hospital and family clinic, which allows for improved quality of patient care. Interface technology represents one more piece in realizing the province's mandate to use information technology to improve the quality of patient care in Ontario.



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GE Healthcare



“Previously, if I ordered a test on another provider's patient... which required follow up, I would have to call the provider to ensure they were looking after it. Now I can glance at the chart and see that the provider is looking after it. Any follow-up reports received are appended to the document and can easily be reviewed by any team member.”

Dr. Greg Higgins
Lead Physician, Prince Edward Family Health Team
Picton, Ontario

“This project uses electronic messaging to integrate hospital information systems with community physicians' electronic charts. Diagnostic test results, hospital dictations and notifications of hospital admissions, transfers and discharges are distributed securely and in real-time to the family physician's electronic chart”

Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo
2008 Program

About xwave Healthcare

xwave Healthcare is the winner of two ITAC-Health awards Company of the Year (2006), and Project Implementation Team of the Year (2008) for its work with Cancer Care Ontario on the Wait Time Information System (WTIS). Drawing from 30 years of experience, the practice comprises nearly 300 medical, technical and business consultants all guided by a Medical Advisory Board of physicians who provide direction and counsel on a voluntary basis. Together they develop solutions and services that connect providers with patients and promote efficiency across the entire continuum of care.

Contact Us

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