

# eHEALTH REPORT

NL CENTRE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 2018

## About the Centre

The NL Centre for Health Information provides quality information to health professionals, researchers, health system decision-makers and the public.

The Centre's mandate includes the development of HEALTHe NL, a confidential and secure provincial electronic health record (EHR). We are also developing and deploying the provincial electronic medical record (EMR), eDOCSNL. Additionally, the Centre is involved in the planning, design and implementation of specific provincial health information systems.

Through its work, the Centre supports improvements in the collection of data and use of information for individual and population levels of care, administration, planning, evaluation and research.

The Centre, in collaboration with the four Regional Health Authorities, is also the lead organization on the Provincial eHealth Model. Working together we will develop a truly integrated and high functioning provincial eHealth system.

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## Chronic Disease Registry

The Centre has officially been designated the custodian of the Chronic Disease Registry under the *Personal Health Information Act (PHIA)*. This is the second registry designated under *PHIA*, with the Cancer Care Registry being the first.

Currently, the Chronic Disease Registry includes seven chronic diseases: diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart failure, hypertension, ischemic heart disease and stroke. Once designated under *PHIA*, the Registry becomes the single trusted authoritative source. It allows for a provincial approach to identifying new and existing chronic disease patients and includes information about how these patients are being managed, their health services, health outcomes and health costs. The Registry also informs policy decision-making, program planning and program monitoring and with appropriate approvals, the data may be used for research. At a regional level, the Registry will support quality patient care.

Longer term, the Chronic Disease Registry will enhance the Centre's ability to provide information to health system decision-makers and identify chronic disease cases in a timelier manner.

This is a significant role and achievement for the Centre as it continues to make a real impact on the provincial health care system.

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## Supporting Health System Management

The Centre plays a significant and increasing role in health information management and health analytics, both of which support patient care and health system management.

The Centre focuses on providing high quality data to support clinicians in providing safe and optimal patient care. Quality data is an essential element for efficient health system management.

## What's New?

Over the past several years, the Centre has been responsible for developing and implementing the province's confidential and secure electronic health record (EHR) called *HEALTHe NL*.



*HEALTHe NL* is a private record of an individual's health care information, available electronically to authorized health care professionals. It integrates information from many sources into a single, lifetime record of an individual's key health history and care. Information is available in one place when and where it is needed.

*HEALTHe NL* currently includes the following types of information, which is updated daily, and helps support real-time health care decision-making at the point of care.

- Patient medication profiles from all provincial community pharmacies.
- Known allergies and medical alerts collected by community pharmacies.
- Provincial immunization data for anyone born after 2003.
- Regional Health Authority Meditech data, including dictated reports, laboratory results, diagnostic imaging and encounters. Remaining Central Health clinical data and encounters will be added late spring - early summer.
- Information about where health services have occurred, by whom and other key clinical events such as inpatient admission.
- Additional data and functionality continue to be assessed and added.

The key to all of NLCHI's work is that it is provincial in scope – it's available to all clinicians in the province, regardless of their location. The opportunities to improve patient safety and quality of care, and create work flow efficiencies are boundless.

To learn more about *HEALTHe NL* or to sign up to be a *HEALTHe NL* user contact NLCHI's Service Desk at [service@nlchi.nl.ca](mailto:service@nlchi.nl.ca) or 1-877-752-6006 or <https://www.nlchi.nl.ca/index.php/ehealth-systems/health-e-nl>.

Approximately 5,000 health care professionals have signed up to use *HEALTHe NL*.

The top three active *HEALTHe NL* users are pharmacists, nurse practitioners and physicians.

## EMR in Action

The eDOCSNL program is more than an office management tool for physicians. It is having a direct impact on the health of patients. Here's a recent real world example.

A patient was being treated by health care providers for a mental health condition that was causing behavioural issues. However, a physician who was able to view the patient's lab values via the EMR along with a detailed patient history, was able to get a more complete understanding of the patient's entire medical profile.

Based on the information in the EMR, the physician determined the patient's diagnosis was not a mental health issue but a physical condition. The patient's course of treatment was immediately changed and as a result the patient's health significantly improved.

As noted by a health care professional in the patient's circle of care, "It (EMR) saved the patient's life."



## eDOCSNL Update

**eDOCSNL**  
ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD

eDOCSNL, Newfoundland and Labrador's provincial electronic medical record (EMR) program, is governed by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information, the Provincial Government and the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association.

Utilizing the Med Access EMR system, eDOCSNL provides a computer-based patient medical record designed to manage patient information previously stored and recorded in paper files. The EMR records patient information about medications, allergies, consultations and allows for billing, patient-scheduling and assigning tasks within the practice. It can also be used in overall practice coordination including population health screening and the development of disease registries.

eDOCSNL integrates information from the patient's electronic health record, HEALTHe NL, to give physicians a more complete picture of a patient's health care encounters outside of the physician's clinic.

Currently, 156 physicians are active eDOCSNL users, 100 physicians are scheduled to join and another 71 physicians have completed an expression of interest.

The eDOCSNL program is also supporting the Provincial Government's Primary Health Care Framework that will utilize EMRs in designated primary health care sites. Currently the eDOCSNL program has been deployed at primary care sites on the Bonavista and Burin Peninsulas.

For inquiries about eDOCSNL email [info@edocsnl.ca](mailto:info@edocsnl.ca) or visit [www.edocsnl.ca](http://www.edocsnl.ca).

## NLCHI Facts & Figures

- The Centre implemented the first Client Registry in Canada, a foundational block of an interoperable electronic health record that provides a province-wide patient index. The provincial Client Registry is recognized as a national model.
- Newfoundland and Labrador is one of only two provinces who were at the forefront of implementing a province-wide Picture Archiving and Communications Systems (PACS). More than 99 per cent of images created in the province are digital. Every year, approximately 850,000 diagnostic imaging exams are performed and are accessible to clinicians anywhere in the province through HEALTHe NL.
- Telehealth evolved from its foundation as a research interest at Memorial University to currently serving as a fundamental part of provincial health care delivery. The Centre coordinates Telehealth services for the province. Currently, there are 104 Telehealth sites located throughout NL, increasing and improving access to health care.
- All 206 community pharmacies are connected to the Pharmacy Network providing a complete medication profile for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.
- HEALTHe NL is providing health care providers with important patient information when and where they need it. Approximately 5,000 health care providers have already signed up.
- There are 156 physicians using the eDOCSNL EMR program and that number continues to grow. Currently, there are nearly 100,000 patient charts in the Med Access EMR system in this province.
- The Centre continues to position Newfoundland and Labrador to be among the first provinces in Canada to achieve the goal of establishing an interoperable and complete EHR, a truly provincial tool.

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