Smarter Healthcare in Canada: Redefining Value and Success

Canadian solutions to build sustainable healthcare systems, collaborate to improve care and outcomes, and increase access to healthcare

The transformation of the healthcare industry is well underway -- driven by a fundamental shift in the expectations of all stakeholders: patients, health providers, and our national and provincial governments. The goal is a more coordinated, aligned and efficient healthcare delivery system, one where clinicians will have clinical evidence and greater clarity to what is needed to improve the health for specific individuals and for communities, at a cost that is sustainable.

Leaders in the industry are aggressively pushing innovation into the core of their business and service models. They have begun to develop new competencies to support strategic decision making, while also building the organizational agility that will be necessary to adapt to changing market conditions.

Together with its healthcare clients and partners, IBM Canada’s national healthcare team is dedicated to developing and providing solutions that have the potential to truly reinvent care, outcomes and cost – thereby redefining value and success in healthcare and helping to build a smarter healthcare industry.

Included below is an overview of some key IBM Canada Healthcare Solutions:

Making Healthcare Smarter: The Instrumented Health System
A ‘real-time’ view of healthcare processes can be achieved by an increased focus on process management and measurement – to improve patient experience, enhance safety and quality, enable multi-discipline team care, and shift to prevention and better management of chronic conditions – while driving out administrative costs. The Care Process Management (CPM) platform from IBM delivers information to point of care, providing visibility into areas where we currently cannot see, and using analytics to become smarter.

Driving Better Patient Outcomes with Analytics
Today’s healthcare IT systems are typically designed for speed and performance to assist physicians in treating patients – not to integrate and aggregate data for analysis, query and reporting. IBM Health Analytics offers integrated data from multiple sources in one central location, enabling more informed decision-making within and across clinical, business and research domains, leading to higher-quality care, enhanced patient safety and more efficient clinical and business operations.

Transforming Care with the Digital Hospital of the Future
The Digital Hospital lets clinicians, nurses and doctors do what they do best – treat patients – while bringing costs down dramatically through information systems that automatically document aspects such as
medication dispensing, patient location and remote monitoring of patients with real-time alerts for clinicians, doctors, nurses and family. The Digital Hospital is built on a real-time, medical-grade network, and IBM has built and implemented almost 100 such networks across Canada. This will equip the Digital Hospital to handle twice as many patients with a higher level of care and safety without increasing hospital or staff size.

Using Coordinated Care to Make Chronic Disease a Thing of the Past
Every year, up to 200,000 deaths result from chronic disease in Canada. Coordinated care is a patient-centred approach that delivers better chronic disease management. It proactively avoids complications and acute episodes by managing the patient to clinical guidelines, sharing information on status and interventions with the care team, and supporting the patient in healthy behaviours and self-management. IBM Advanced Case Management solutions consolidate complex cases which lead to faster, more efficient case outcomes.

Providing Fast, Effective Healthcare with Electronic Health Records
An EHR system aggregates information about the health of an individual from a variety of sources, providing secure, easy and instant access to pertinent information to help clinical decision-makers provide better patient care. Besides improving overall care, EHRs will lead to fewer repeat tests and faster test results, new tools to manage chronic diseases, safer drug prescribing, and better infectious disease outbreak control through national surveillance tools such as Panorama.

Investing in Interoperability Drives Healthcare Transformation
IBM believes healthcare IT system interoperability is a fundamental capability required to drive transformation in the healthcare system. Today’s IT professionals and CIOs must embrace a process-based approach to interoperability – the ability to share and act on data and knowledge across jurisdictional, facility, and system boundaries. The newest approaches to interoperability put the design and decision-making in the hands of the clinical users, resulting in meaningful process-based interoperability that truly does improve care and outcomes.

Achieving Small Miracles from Big Data
Project Artemis is a collaborative initiative involving Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT), and IBM Canada. The goal of the project is to capture and apply deep analytics to the vast amounts of physiological data generated by medical devices attached to premature babies – providing insights to physicians and nurses to help them detect life-threatening infections days sooner than is possible today.

Teaming with IBM Business Partners for Smarter Healthcare Solutions
Whether trying to increase patient safety, reduce wait times, or provide real-time access to information for better decision-making, IBM Canada works with best-of-breed partners to provide care delivery organizations with innovative, real-world solutions. Through relationships with major ISVs, consultants, clinicians, integrators and resellers, IBM and its partners provide comprehensive solutions that can improve the quality of care.

Panorama: Preparing Canada for a Pandemic
After the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2003, a post-SARS study – the Naylor report – showed that there was a marked inability to get at related data quickly, and to assemble, share and analyze it for swift action. The Pan-Canadian Communicable Disease Surveillance & Management System (Panorama) project was created to build a set of consistent, bilingual public health surveillance system components that would be available to all Canadian healthcare jurisdictions for implementation within their own IT infrastructures.

For more information
Visit www.ibm.com/healthcare/ca to learn how IBM is working with clients across Canada to build a sustainable healthcare system.