

► Vendor News

Infoway Negotiates Preferred Solution Agreements for the Benefit of Public Sector Partners

Canada Health Infoway has negotiated preferential conditions and pricing with information technology vendors for the benefit of provinces, territories and other public sector partners. The Canada-wide agreements, designed to accelerate the implementation of electronic health records, were signed with four diagnostic imaging solutions providers: Agfa Inc. (www.agfa.com), Christie Group Ltd. (www.christiegrp.com), McKesson Information Solutions Canada Company (www.mckesson.com) and Philips Electronics Ltd. (www.philips.com), operating under the trade name of Philips Medical Systems Canada.

The vendors have demonstrated an understanding of the requirements for the pan-Canadian electronic health record and a commitment to interoperability. These vendors will work with the eHealth Collaboratory, a leading-edge facility, to test the conformance of their solutions to pan-Canadian standards. A key benefit of these types of agreements is that vendors will offer preferred pricing arrangements to the jurisdictions, as well as alternative pricing models such as provisions for a shared services approach, where several hospitals or regions share the same system. Vendors are also committed to providing service-level guarantees.

Source: www.infoway-inforoute.ca

New Electronic Tools to Benefit Mental Health and Addictions Clients

The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) will be the first healthcare organization in Canada to use technology to support mental health and addictions clinicians and clients to make the most informed decisions about their care. With the help of a \$1.8 million investment from Canada Health Infoway's Innovation and Adoption program, VIHA will implement electronic tools to match clients who have mental health and addictions challenges with the most appropriate care in the community.

Source: www.infoway-inforoute.ca

Hamilton Health Sciences Centre Implements Centralized Rehab Assessment Solution

Hamilton Health Science Centre has implemented Clarity Healthcare for NRRS, developed by Clarity Healthcare Solution, to create a single, Web-based integrated solution for the three rehab facilities at Hamilton Health Sciences. The multi-site institution, with several hundred rehab beds at The General, Henderson and Chedoke, has been reporting NRS (National Rehab Reporting System) data to CIHI since 2001 using an original system developed with three separate databases – one for each reporting facility. As the needs for a comprehensive shared system grew, clinicians and management found that data were not integrated among the sites, there was no real-time information available to assist clinicians with patient

assessments and care, additional administrative staff were required with increased costs and it was difficult to gather information on the Centre's entire rehab service. The organization now has a Web-based solution with a single-user interface and a central database that integrates all three sites.

Source: www.clarityhealthcare.net

Emergis Signs Agreements to Provide Drug Information System to Newfoundland and Labrador

Emergis Inc. has signed contracts with the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI) to deploy and support a comprehensive, provincewide drug information system (DIS) solution, its health integration infrastructure and a thorough change management program to support the adoption of the solution by healthcare professionals. These agreements are expected to generate revenue of more than \$30 million over the nine-year term of the contracts. Emergis expects the solution to go online in the first half of 2008.

Source: www.emergis.com

IBM and Alberta Sign \$10 Million Contract to Deploy Electronic Health Records

A new electronic health records system to provide patient information to Alberta physicians and other healthcare workers and facilities will reduce medical errors and adverse drug reactions and improve the quality and speed of service. Over the course of the two-year, \$10 million contract with the Alberta government, IBM will help manage the roll-out of the system and recruit, enroll and train users such as physicians, pharmacists and other healthcare providers in health region facilities, offices and pharmacies across the province. IBM will also operate a toll-free user helpline. When fully deployed, the system will give authorized healthcare professionals across the province a secure, single login to patient information. More than 17,000 are already registered.

Source: www.ibm.com/healthcare

Capital Health Selects Epic to Develop Canada's Largest Electronic Medical Record System

Capital Health has chosen Epic Systems, a leader in healthcare information technology, to implement an electronic medical record (EMR) and scheduling system that provides clinicians and patients one-stop access to ambulatory care services. Targeted to begin in late 2006, this will be Epic's largest, most comprehensive installation in Canada. The company has been rated highly for its software products and clinical information system implementations with large-sized, academic healthcare organizations.

With input from more than 300 physicians and clinicians, Epic was selected through a competitive process to develop a regionwide patient scheduling system (Cadence)

that will allow referring physicians, clinicians and patients to locate and book the first available appointment anywhere within the region improving management of resources and wait times. Epic will also develop an ambulatory electronic medical record (EpicCare) that will enhance information sharing among Capital Health facilities, Primary Care Networks and outpatient clinics to support more efficient care of patients.

Source: www.capitalhealth.ca

Alberta Implements World's First Electronic Surgical Reporting

Alberta cancer surgeons have implemented the world's first Web Surgical Medical Records program (WebSMR) and will be extending the program to other parts of the province thanks to \$1.4 million in funding by Canada Health Infoway. The new tool allows doctors to fill out a standardized electronic report after performing surgeries. The reports can be shared by the entire cancer care team, enabling them to make better decisions and improve the quality and safety of post-operative care for patients.

Source: www.cancerboard.ab.ca



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*Connie Benn, RN, BScN. MDS
Classification Officer, Continuing Care and Rehabilitation Program, Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital: Laurentian Site*



Connie Benn, RAI Coordinator (sitting), Michelle Beaudry, Wendy Trotter, Judy Frey-Signoretti

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 **British Intelligence.**

One of Courtyard Group's new faces in the UK is Gia Marasco.

Courtyard's resident bundle of energy is embracing the chance to live abroad and walk upon England's mountains green.

Gia Marasco is a senior analyst with an MBA from the DeGroot School of Business at McMaster University and she welcomes the opportunity to apply her keen professional acumen to the already experience-laden UK team.

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