

Manitoba's Electronic Health Record Project: Fact Sheet

The key to connecting your health information

Summary Description

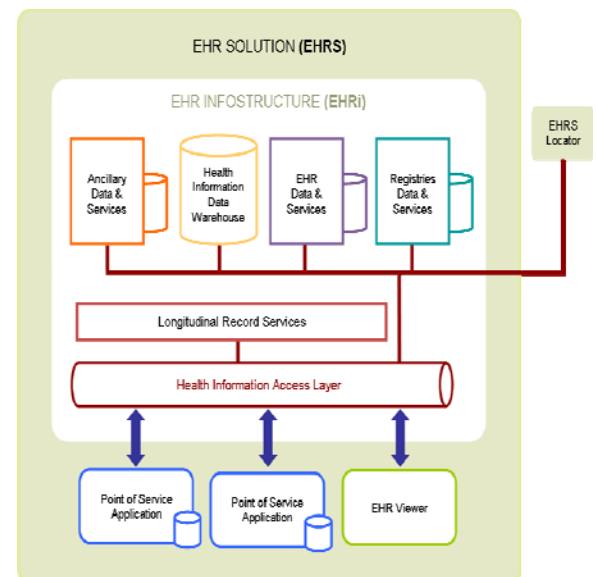
- The Electronic Health Record (EHR) is a secure, private and lifetime record of a person's key health history including medication, laboratory results, diagnostic images and encounter records.
- The EHR will incrementally integrate information from hospitals, clinics and other health care facilities province-wide, providing a single accurate source of patient medical history. Data retained within the system is available for viewing by authorized health care providers and individuals receiving care anytime, anywhere.
- Source systems (or data repositories) will include private physician offices that are using an electronic record where they retain information about their patients. These physicians will have the ability to share information from their systems to the EHR and receive data from other source systems (*the type of data and how it will be received is yet to be determined*).
- The EHR is designed to connect and work together with other healthcare systems and applications across different jurisdictional boundaries in Canada and supports a standard approach for collecting, transmitting and using clinical data.
- Initial deployment of the EHR will be primary care and emergency care providers.
- Canada Health Infoway will fund a portion of the project significantly reducing implementation costs and other related expenses for Manitoba.

Components

- The Electronic Health Record Solution (EHRS) is not a stand alone, separate system but rather a combination of people, organizational entities, processes, systems, technology and standards that collectively work together to exchange clinical data and improve the delivery of health care.
- The 'EHR portal' is responsible for providing a web-based view to key health data and history such as drug and immunization information, laboratory results, client information and provider information.
- The Electronic Health Record infrastructure ('EHRi') is the technology component (i.e. software, hardware, network and computers) responsible for bringing together key health information available for viewing by health providers.

The Canada Health Infoway diagram to the right shows the structure of the EHRS and EHRi. EHR data is stored in the EHRi, and it is managed and accessed by providers using the support processes of the EHRS.

Also of note is the linkage to EHR solutions in other provinces through the EHRS Locator services. By adhering to the pan-Canadian standards, EHR systems in different jurisdictions will interoperate.



Who Benefits

- Authorized health care providers/staff including (but not restricted to) physicians, nurses, midwives, allied health practitioners and pharmacists.
- Health care related agencies, facilities, programs and sites.
- Patients receiving care within Manitoba.

Overall Benefits

- Improve the quality, safety and timeliness of patient care by increasing the type and amount of information available to authorized health care providers across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Support the reduction in wait times, the management of chronic diseases, and the improvement of access to care in remote communities.
- Increase economies of scale, reduce healthcare costs and improve efficiencies in the long term by leveraging existing systems and reusing common infrastructure and standards.
- Adhere to applicable Manitoba Legislation, Regulation, Policy and Standards and ensure all requirements associated with the PHIA (Personal Health Information Act) are met.

Clinical Benefits

- Provide authorized health care providers with immediate, reliable and secure access to a patient's health and medical record anytime, anywhere enhancing their ability to make informed, timely decisions and improving the overall delivery and quality of patient care. Easy and timely access to an individual's health information will also help to reduce errors in prescriptions and treatments.
- Improve the flow and sharing of vital clinical information across geographical boundaries and the continuum of care. This will reduce time spent waiting for information and will empower staff with innovative tools to perform their daily tasks efficiently.

Administrative Benefits

- Save time and reduce effort in searching for information through files commonly associated with a paper-based system.
- Reduce the amount of manual data entry and other office related duties including fax, courier and mail allowing staff to save time and improve productivity in other, more pressing areas.
- Streamline processes eliminating duplication of work and reducing errors.

Major Milestones/ Schedule

- Manitoba has a 5 year plan for the EHR project which includes the current scope as well as consideration for development of key components that will support the future of the Manitoba EHR.
- Employing consistent consultative processes with clinicians and other stakeholders is an integral part of the overall success of the project.
- The implementation will include two major releases and may also include minor releases, ending February 2012:
 - Release 1:
 - Building of technical infrastructure
 - Web-based view (EHR Portal) of clinical information
 - Access to medication and immunization information
 - Access to laboratory results
 - Begin integration with hospital and other clinical systems
 - Initial access focus on primary care providers and emergency rooms
 - Release 2
 - Access to diagnostic images and reports
 - Expansion of integration with other systems

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