

## Physician Peer-to-Peer Network Update

Here's to an exciting 2010!

### Introduction from Dr. Diamond Kassum, Chief Medical Information Officer, Manitoba eHealth

Since fall 2008, the Manitoba Physician Peer-to-Peer Network has provided Manitoba physicians with support in the adoption and use of an electronic medical record system. Looking back at 2009, it's evident that this network of Physician Peer Leaders has provided a valuable service to physicians and clinicians in Manitoba.

Over the past year, Physician Peer Leaders provided direct counselling services to 21 physicians and clinicians across the province. They discussed topics including vendor selection, paper chart migration, workflow optimization and outcome measurement.

Additionally, Physician Peer Leaders successfully reached out to an additional 50 or more physicians and health professionals through their participation and presentations at Manitoba electronic medical record forums, conferences and workshops.

New for 2010, Physician Peer Leaders are eligible for additional support to provide Manitoba physicians and clinicians with the opportunity to visit clinics currently using an electronic medical record system.

The Manitoba Physician Peer-to-Peer Network continues to offer counselling service to Manitoba physicians on the benefits and value of electronic medical records.

The Manitoba eHealth Primary Care Information System (PCIS) Office remains committed to supporting this initiative and looks forward to assisting Manitoba Physician Peer Leaders, physicians, specialists and clinicians in 2010.

## New Physician Peer Leader - Dr. Shawn Thomas



Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Dr. Shawn Thomas attended The University of Winnipeg and received an undergraduate degree in Chemistry. Dr. Thomas later attended the University of Manitoba, graduating from the Faculty of Medicine in 2004.

Dr. Thomas worked at the ACCESS River East Centre as a primary care physician. In 2005, he moved to a private practice at Concordia Health Connections. In July, 2009, Dr. Thomas was appointed Medical Director of Concordia Health Associates. In addition to this new role, Dr. Thomas works at Concordia and Seven Oaks Hospital practicing in-hospital and emergency medicine.

Dr. Thomas has also served as a lecturer at the University of Manitoba and most recently is an active Physician Peer Leader with Manitoba eHealth.

## Physician Peer-to-Peer Site Visits Available

The Physician Peer-to-Peer Network has added an additional resource for physicians interested in acquiring and implementing an electronic medical record system in their clinical practice.

Physicians, along with their team members, now have the opportunity to visit a local clinic with a functioning electronic medical record system in order to experience first hand the valuable benefits this tool offers. A site visit provides participants with exposure to process and workflow changes and offers a better understanding of how the system can add efficiencies to their daily practice.

Site visits are in addition to the current approach of individual peer mentorship, which is beneficial and recommended for physicians in the early, contemplative stages of purchasing an electronic medical record system.

For more information about site visits, please contact Michael Haip at [mhaip@manitoba-ehealth.ca](mailto:mhaip@manitoba-ehealth.ca).

## Staff Announcement

Recently, Michael Haip accepted the position of PCIS Office Manager, formerly held by Jean Gilbert.

Reporting directly to the Director of Telehealth and EHR Services, Liz Loewen, Michael brings a wealth of education and experience in health care and information system implementation from a variety of past roles.

Welcome Michael!



## Electronic Medical Record Forum — What an Event!

In September 2009, the PCIS Office together with the University of Manitoba Continuing Medical Education (CME) Department and the Manitoba Physician Peer-to-Peer Network co-hosted an electronic medical record forum, "Tools for Optimization of Primary Care and Clinical Practice."

The forum provided family physicians and specialists practicing in Manitoba the opportunity to learn more about the value and benefits of implementing an electronic medical record system in their clinical practice.

Of the 51 participants, 21 were Manitoba physicians. Feedback from attendees and guest speakers was positive, indicating a high degree of satisfaction in the overall objectives, content, speakers and organization of the day's activities.

Here are some comments received from attendees:

"I gained a new understanding of the efficiency and flexibility of an electronic medical record system."

"This forum opened my eyes to the real benefits of using an electronic medical record system."

For more information about the results and outcomes of the forum, please contact Manitoba eHealth PCIS Office at [PCISoffice@manitoba-ehealth.ca](mailto:PCISoffice@manitoba-ehealth.ca).

## Electronic Medical Record Workshop – Manitoba Patient Access Network Conference

In November 2009, Manitoba Physician Peer Leaders provided a presentation to Manitoba physicians, clinicians and administrators at the Manitoba Patient Access Network (MPAN) conference. The focus of the presentation was "Electronic Medical Records: What you need to know."

Engaging presentations were provided by Dr. Michael Stephensen, "Value of an EMR in Clinical Practice," and Dr. Shawn Thomas, "EMR Implementation & Clinical Practice."

Although session attendance was less than expected, questions were of high quality and audience feedback was excellent.

## Contact us

For more information about the Physician Peer-to-Peer Network, please visit [www.manitoba-ehealth.ca/dr-Network.html](http://www.manitoba-ehealth.ca/dr-Network.html).

To arrange a consultation with a Physician Peer Leader, email [PCISoffice@manitoba-ehealth.ca](mailto:PCISoffice@manitoba-ehealth.ca).