



Ontario eHealth Electronic Medical Record Systems

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care established eHealth Ontario in 2008, to create an integrated system of electronic medical records (EMR) for health care providers in Ontario. The integrated repository of electronic client records, including diagnostic tests and results, would allow health practitioners to have access to all the relevant health information needed at the time of clinical decision-making. The goal was to create a more efficient access to updated and current health records from anywhere in the province for better and faster client care decisions. Ultimately, this would save time, money and lead to better health outcomes. This vision is now well on its way to becoming a reality.

There are currently more than 12,000 community-based providers enrolled in an EMR adoption program, representing coverage for more than 10 million Ontarians. Physician eHealth established a delivery partnership with the Association of Ontario Health Centres to roll out a modern EMR system across 75 community health centres, 10 Aboriginal health access centres, and five nurse practitioner-led clinics. eHealth Ontario is leading the implementation of the *Ontario Laboratories Information System* that connects hospitals, community laboratories, public health laboratories and practitioners. This linkage facilitates the secure electronic exchange of laboratory test orders and results.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR DIETITIANS

The College of Dietitians of Ontario was one of six health regulatory colleges to participate in the pilot phase of the eHealth project. Since 2009, the College has spent a lot of time and effort working with eHealth Ontario to make sure

dietitians have access to the EMR database to facilitate the delivery of safe, client-centred nutrition services in Ontario.

To have access to the EMR database, there are two criteria that must be met:

1. You must first be included in eHealth's Provider Registry. To be eligible for the Provider Registry, you must be a member in good standing with an Ontario health regulatory college and authorized to practice. The College provides a weekly update to eHealth to ensure that the information in the Provider Registry is up-to-date. eHealth Ontario has issued a *Notice of Collection* in keeping with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, stating which information is being collected and the purpose for which it is being collected. To access this notice go to: www.collegeofdietitians.org, and enter "ehealth" in the search box.
2. The organization you work with — a hospital or community health center, etc. — must also register you to access the EMR database. Only registrants who require access to personal health information can have access to the EMR database. Dietitians can have access to the EMR system through the hospitals or community health care centres where they work. At this point, dietitians in private practice do not have a right of access to the EMR database.

For more information about the EMR systems see the eHealth website at: <http://www.ehealthontario.on.ca/en/about/>