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Digital Health Education for Medical Schools

Preparing future physicians for Ontario's complex digital health ecosystem

Today's Challenge – The Lack of Digital Health Education

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of digital health technologies, requiring physicians to keep pace with rapid change and acquire a unique set of skills. According to the National Survey of Canadian Physicians 2021, conducted by Canada Health Infoway and the Canadian Medical Association, 94% of primary care physicians used virtual care tools in 2020, and more than 70% believe virtual care improves patient access and patient care.[1]

A 2021 two-phased survey of 1,367 medical students at the University of Montreal reported that around 75% of medical students had little or no exposure to advanced digital health, telehealth and AI-related technologies during their medical training.[2] The rapid adoption of digital and virtual care tools worldwide has created a growing information gap between the pace of digital health innovation and the foundational knowledge and competencies required by physicians to enhance care using digital health. There is a critical need for medical schools to incorporate digital health competencies and health informatics training into their curricula to bridge this gap.

OMD – Trusted Digital Health Education Developed by Physicians for Physicians

OMD has been the industry leader in Canada for digital health adoption and use by community care for nearly 20 years. OMD's physician advisors and subject matter experts (privacy & security, quality improvement, physician resilience, etc.) have been providing physicians with the knowledge and education required to efficiently use digital health solutions to deliver patient care. We have turned this knowledge into a comprehensive digital health package of educational materials that has been created by OMD and Dr. Cody Jackson, a practicing physician with a Masters in Health Professional Education for medical students. This package is designed to meet the objectives of the Medical Council of Canada's Qualifying Examination (March 2022)[3] and can be customized to reflect your medical school's unique requirements.

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[1] *Canada Health Infoway (2022). Infoway Insights: Canadian Digital Health Survey. https://insights.infoway-inforoute.ca/digital-health-survey*

[2] *Paré, Guy., Raymond, Louie., Porney, Marie-Pascale., Grégoire, Geneviève. (2020). The role of digital health in medical education. Journal of Medical Education, 22(1), 34-41. doi:1621feea-ffa1-490f-820d-052f47fc9eda*

[3] *Medical Council of Canada. Clinical Informatics - 126. Retrieved December 16, 2022, from https://www.mcc.ca/objectives/expert/key/126/*

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Our technical and clinical insights are reflected in our digital health curriculum and provide medical students with the opportunity to learn about the latest advances in digital health and their practical application within a clinical environment, which comes from our assessment of existing physicians' digital health literacy gaps.

OMD is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ontario Medical Association and the premier partner of Ontario Health to deliver digital health tools into the hands of physicians. This unique position has given us a strong understanding at both a practice and health system level, allowing us to design a comprehensive digital health curriculum that can be incorporated into your institution's medical school program.

Digital Health Curriculum: Modules Overview

This digital health educational package includes well-defined instructional digital health materials developed by practicing physicians and digital health experts who are university faculty members. Each module in the curriculum is specifically designed to enhance experiential learning and can be easily customized to the learning goals of each university's medical school and the student's education year.

The five short modules and their objectives are outlined in the figure below:

Course Objectives

Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)	Clinical Decision-Making Tools	Social Media & Medicine	Digital Documentation	Virtual Patient Care
Basic understanding of: • Capabilities of EMRs • Tools that exist to supplement EMRs • Awareness of the limitations & drawbacks of EMRs • The overall landscape of EMRs • EMR data input best practices	Basic understanding of: • Common clinical decision support tools used in medicine • Advantages of using clinical decision support tools • Strategies to integrate these tools into practice	Basic understanding of: • Benefits & harms of social media in medicine • Definitions & advantages of Communities of Practice • Recommendations made by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) social media policy	Basic understanding of: • How to format notes in digital medium • The advantages of using digital documentation templates • The legal implications of documentation	Basic understanding of: • Current landscape of virtual care • Common presentations that are and aren't appropriate for virtual care • Differences in virtual care environments • Common tools used in virtual care

Course content developed based on enabling objectives defined by MCC

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Each module is available in short and long formats, with short formats providing an introduction to digital health solutions for first and second year medical students and long formats providing more intensive materials for third and fourth year medical students.

In addition to OMD's Digital Health Curriculum, medical schools can leverage OMD's Educational Content Development and Guest Lecturer services to deliver further value to your medical students.

1. Content Development

OMD subject matter experts (SMEs) can work with faculties to develop content for:

- Digital Health Solutions: Online appointment booking, Health Report Manager (HRM®), Insights4Care (i4C) EMR Dashboard
- Provincial Digital Health Assets: eConsult/eReferral, Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS), Digital Health Drug Repository (DHDR)

2. Guest Lecturers

- Health care professionals and SMEs can give clinical insight into best practices for effectively and efficiently using digital health tools.

Take advantage of our expertise and thought leadership to prepare your students to learn about the reality of practice in a rapidly evolving health care system. We help them become literate in digital health now and at each stage of their careers.

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