Electronic Medical Records

EMR Practice Enhancement Program:

helping physicians achieve their EMR optimization goals

by Douglas W. Smith, MD OntarioMD

"After creating my action plan to improve data entry, I was able to obtain 100% of the child immunization target, a 90% rate for cervical cancer screening, and improve my colorectal screening from 50% to 60%."

- Dr. Thérèse Hodgson, Ottawa

MR ADOPTION HAS PASSED ITS TIPPING POINT IN ONTARIO WITH ENROLMENT AMONG FAMILY PHYSICIANS IN THE EMR ADOPTION PROGRAM EXCEEDING 80%. GIVEN THIS CRITICAL MASS, THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT REALIZATION OF EMR BENEFITS AMONG SOME ADVANCED EMR USERS, BUT THE MAJORITY OF PHYSICIANS ARE

JUST EMBARKING ON THE OPTIMIZATION JOURNEY TO REALIZE THE FULL VALUE AND POTENTIAL OF THEIR EMRS.

Most users are familiar with core functional EMR benefits, like improvement in practice workflow efficiencies. But few are aware of the depth and breadth of benefits that will be realized when EMRs are used to their fullest potential, such as:

- Improved identification of at-risk or in need of followup patients/populations.
- Improved screening rates and testing frequency.
- Enhanced adherence and responsiveness to guidelines and changes in guidelines.
- Improved physiological outcomes.
- Improved immunization rates.
- Improved ability to inform and impact public health measures.

EMR Practice Enhancement Program

There has been a notable increase in the number of physicians expressing a desire to use advanced EMR features and functionalities. In response, OntarioMD has expanded its services to assist physicians in achieving their personal EMR optimization goals.

OntarioMD's EMR Practice Enhance-

ment Program (EPEP) provides customized support to help physicians move beyond the basics, at their own pace, to realize the benefits of advanced EMR usage. The program consists of a robust suite of self-directed and consultative services available at no cost to physicians enrolled in the EMR Adoption Program.

Participating In The Program

Physicians access the program through OntarioMD's website at www.ontario md.ca/ir/epr using their OntarioMD username and password. The starting point for the program is an online questionnaire assessing current EMR capabilities and identifying short-term objectives. Following an assessment, OntarioMD provides a range of support services according to individual practice needs. Physicians have the opportunity to:

- Engage with Practice Advisors and Peer Leaders to refine and prioritize key areas of focus for EMR enhancement.
- Work with OntarioMD Practice Advisors to develop a personal-

- ized plan of action, specifying the resources, corrective actions, and efforts required to achieve their EMR enhanced usage goals.
- Collaborate with physicians and other health care professionals sharing similar goals.

Throughout the process, OntarioMD works with physicians and their practices to sustain the momentum of change to help physicians stay abreast of new developments in our rapidly evolving eHealth landscape.

Realizing EMR benefits is a journey and OntarioMD is equipped to help physicians every step of the way.

Complete your practice assessment by visiting www.ontariomd.ca/ir/epr. If you do not have an OntarioMD.ca username and password, you can sign up on the website at any time. To connect with a Peer Leader or a Practice Advisor, contact OntarioMD at support@ontariomd.com or 1.866.744.8668. ■

Dr. Douglas W. Smith, a family physician practising in Ottawa, is also the Senior Physician Peer Leader for OntarioMD's Peer Leader Program.