

THE COLLEGE OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
OF CANADA



LE COLLÈGE DES
MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE
DU CANADA



Canada Health Infoway
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BEST ADVICE

Advanced and Meaningful Use of EMRs

Prepared by
The College of Family Physicians of Canada
Canada Health Infoway

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Family medicine continues to evolve as new technologies emerge and physicians increasingly incorporate digital health tools into their practice.

In 2015, the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) released an introductory Best Advice guide, *Adopting EMRs in a Patient's Medical Home*, to highlight the potential benefits of using electronic medical records (EMRs) in family practice and to discuss factors to consider when adopting an EMR system. Many family practice environments have since adopted EMRs and realize the benefits of sharing health information across the care spectrum.

In this follow-up guide, the [CFPC](#) and [Canada Health Infoway](#) (Infoway) have partnered to offer family physicians practical guidance on advanced and meaningful use of EMR capabilities.



MODULE 1 – Using EMRs for Quality Improvement and Research

Describes the principles of quality improvement (QI) frameworks and standard methodologies, and outlines core elements of using EMRs to improve care delivery, including how practice based research networks can facilitate these efforts.



MODULE 2 – Using EMRs to Connect with Other Care Settings and Providers

Describes the principles of electronic interfacing and interoperability and considers the variation in how family physicians can use EMRs to interact with other health care providers, including electronic health record systems, e-prescribing, e-referral, electronic forms, and e-consult. Recommendations and a list of available provincial systems are provided.



MODULE 3 – Clinical Decision Support in Canadian EMRs

Describes the types of clinical decision support tools used in EMRs and how they can support family physicians and their individual patients in offering care guided by the latest available evidence.



MODULE 4 – Privacy and Security

Provides definitions of privacy, security, and confidentiality, and an overview of the basic issues to consider when using EMRs across multiple access points (e.g., computers, tablets, and smartphones; email; third party software) using a practical case scenario.



MODULE 5 – Data Stewardship

Provides an overview of the definition and dimensions of data stewardship, the concept of data ownership and related privacy laws, and practical considerations for family physicians.



MODULE 6 – Patient-oriented Services

Discusses patient-facing technologies and tools including e-booking, secure messaging, patient portals, telehealth, telehomecare, and virtual visits, and how they can improve the patient experience.

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Eligibility for Mainpro+® Credits

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