BEST ADVICE

Advanced and Meaningful Use of EMRs

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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.

Eligibility for Mainpro+® Credits
This activity has not been formally certified by the CFPC; however, it is eligible for non-certified Self-Learning credits. Mainpro+ participants may also earn additional certified credits by completing a Linking Learning exercise.

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