

eHEALTH REPORT

NL CENTRE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

JULY 2018

Centre Receives Funding For Three Major Initiatives

In May, the NL Centre for Health Information (Centre) participated in an exciting announcement with ACOA. The Centre received almost \$10 million in funding to expand key provincial services including health analytics, telehealth and an electronic referral and ordering system.

The money will support the assessment, design and implementation of a Health Data Lab, which when completed will deliver one of the most advanced and comprehensive provincial-level health data environments in Canada. The Health Data Lab will provide new opportunities for researchers and entrepreneurs to access health data in a secure and protected environment, which opens the door to future innovation. Access to timely, up-to-date and complete data better informs the decisions made by our health leaders, saves resources and ultimately leads to better health outcomes.

The funding will also expand Telehealth in NL which is essential for connecting remote and rural communities to health care services. NL has long been a leader in Telehealth and currently has 104 sites province-wide. This new funding will push this service further by piloting desktop solutions to move Telehealth into patient's homes and private physician clinics. The money will also help expand services to new locations and into new clinical areas including adult and pediatric emergency services, long-term care and pathology.

The third project will enable the electronic ordering of medical tests and procedures utilizing our electronic health record platform, HEALTHe NL. Initially, the project will focus on cardiac catheterization, vascular lab and certain diagnostic imaging tests such as CT scans, and later include other tests as well. Physicians currently refer a patient through a paper process involving many people, fax machines and other manual methods. However E-ordering will allow a physician to electronically refer and prioritize a patient for a treatment saving time, increasing access and enhancing patient safety.

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\$10 million in ACOA funding will allow the Centre to expand key services including health analytics, telehealth and an electronic referral and ordering system.



ACOA Announcement –the Centre was pleased to welcome representatives from the Federal and Provincial Governments.

(...ACOA Funding cont.)

The overarching themes of these projects focus on the crucial areas of access and wait times for patients, appropriateness of care, sustainability, more informed decision-making, and untapped opportunities for innovation.

All of this work happens within the confines of a system that is governed by provincial privacy and security standards to ensure that personal health data is safeguarded, protected and kept secure.

HEALTHe NL Continues to Grow

The Centre is responsible for developing and implementing the province’s confidential and secure electronic health record called *HEALTHe NL*.



HEALTHe NL is a private record of an individual’s health care information, available electronically to authorized health care professionals. It integrates information from many sources into a single, lifetime

record of an individual’s key health history and care. Information is available in one place when and where it is needed.

HEALTHe NL currently includes the following types of information, which is updated daily, and helps support real-time health care decision-making at the point of care.

- Patient medication profiles from all provincial community pharmacies.
- Known allergies and medical alerts collected by community pharmacies.
- Provincial immunization data for anyone born after 2003.
- Regional Health Authority Meditech data, including dictated reports, laboratory results, diagnostic imaging and encounters. The remaining data to complete the EHR build is the integration of Central Health’s dictated reports and diagnostic imaging and is expected to be added this summer.
- Information about where health services have occurred, by whom and other key clinical events such as inpatient admission.
- Additional data and functionality continue to be assessed and added.

The key to all of NLCHI’s work is that it is provincial in scope – it’s available to all clinicians in the province, regardless of their location. The opportunities to improve patient safety and quality of care, and create work flow efficiencies are boundless.

Learn more about *HEALTHe NL* or sign up to be a *HEALTHe NL* user!
service@nlchi.nl.ca or 1-877-752-6006 or
<https://www.nlchi.nl.ca/index.php/ehealth-systems/health-the-nl>.

Making a Difference

The Centre was recently tasked as administrators of the Prescription Monitoring Program - NL. Under the new legislation, prescribers are required to review a patient's medication profile using HEALTHe NL, when prescribing an opioid.

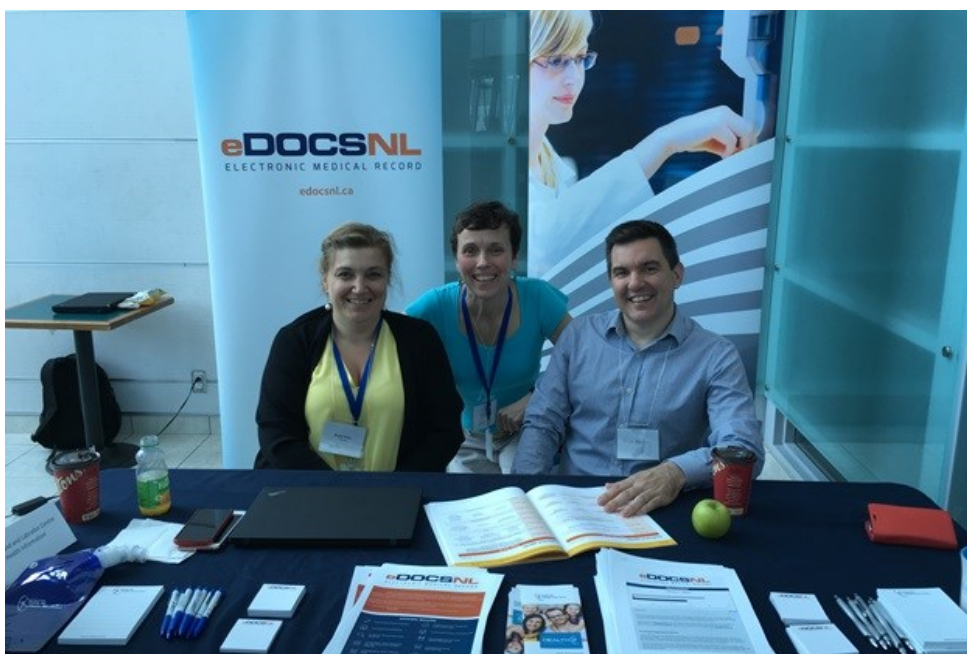
Recently, a physician spoke about the value of HEALTHe NL and how she used it to divert an unnecessary opioid prescription from a patient.

Her patient is dealing with a cancer diagnosis and in such cases, an opioid prescription is very common and an appropriate part of the care plan. The request from the patient for a refill of pain medication was not out of the ordinary, or alarming.

However, before prescribing the opioid, the physician checked HEALTHe NL, and discovered the patient just had an opioid prescribed by another physician.

Understanding the circumstances that brought the patient to her clinic, and now, equipped with the information available in HEALTHe NL, the physician was able to appropriately address this concern with the patient and ensure an unnecessary opioid was not prescribed.

In this instance, HEALTHe NL equipped this physician with the information needed to make an informed clinical decision. Through use of HEALTHe NL, this physician was able to address a major concern, ensure patient safety and start a discussion regarding available supports.



Members of the Centre's eDOCS team. L-R: Bonny Miller, Mandy Bull and Fred Melindy.

eDOCSNL Update

eDOCSNL is Newfoundland and Labrador's provincial electronic medical record (EMR) program.

Currently, there are 207 active eDOCSNL physicians (139 fee-for-service family physicians; 39 fee-for-service specialists; 17 salaried family physicians; 6 salaried specialist physicians) and 6 nurse practitioners. An additional 64 physicians have scheduled dates for onboarding or are waiting to be scheduled. Another 67 physicians have submitted an Expression of Interest.

eDOCSNL is now live at the Corner Brook Wellness Collaborative. This is the first clinic to implement the Better Program for initial patient visits. The team is also trialing our first clinic to utilize SNOMED diagnosis codes. Both of these will give us eDOCSNL good learnings moving forward.

The eDOCSNL program also supports the Provincial Government's Primary Health Care Framework that utilizes EMRs in designated primary health care sites. Primary health care clinics in Deer Lake and Stephenville are scheduled to come onboard this fall. These clinics will join primary health care sites in Bonavista and Burin which are currently using eDOCSNL.

For inquiries about eDOCSNL email info@edocsnl.ca or visit www.edocsnl.ca.



eDOCSNL is governed by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information, the Provincial Government and the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association.

NLCHI Notes

Provincial eHealth Model

As part of the Provincial Government’s approach to developing a province-wide shared services eHealth model for the health care system, the Centre has been tasked with coordinating information technology and information management from the four RHAs and the Centre into one provincial model. Information on this initiative can be found [here](#).

Prescription Monitoring Program – NL

As part of the province’s Opioid Action Plan, the *Prescription Monitoring Act* was passed by the Provincial Government in the fall 2017. The Centre has been given the responsibility for program administration. Under the new legislation, as of June 30, 2018, prescribers will have to review a patient’s medication profile using HEALTHe NL before writing a prescription for a monitored drug. Over the past number of months the Centre has signed up over 1,000 new prescribers to HEALTHe NL.

New Centre for Health Information Act

This past winter, the *Centre for Health Information Act* was updated to reflect the Centre’s growing responsibilities. Highlights of the new *Act* include expanding the mandate of the Centre recognizing its designation as lead of the Provincial eHealth Model, and requiring an employee of the Office of the Chief Information Officer to be a director on the board of the Centre. To view a copy of the new *Act* click [here](#).

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The Centre’s Provincial Programs and Services

