Research article

Is Canada ready for patient accessible electronic health records? A national scan

Sara Urowitz*†1, David Wiljer†1,2, Emma Apatu†1, Gunther Eysenbach†3,4, Claudette DeLenardo†5, Tamara Harth†6, Howard Pai†7,8,9 and Kevin J Leonard†3,4

Address: 1Princess Margaret Hospital/University Health Network, Canada, 2Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto, Canada, 3Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto, Canada, 4Centre for Global eHealth Innovation, University Health Network, Canada, 5Grand River Hospital, Canada, 6Odette Cancer Centre/Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Canada, 7Department of Surgery, University of British Columbia, Canada, 8School of Health Information Sciences, University of Victoria, Canada and 9BC Cancer Agency, Victoria, Canada

Email: Sara Urowitz* - sara.urowitz@uhn.on.ca; David Wiljer - david.wiljer@uhn.on.ca; Emma Apatu - emma.apatu@emory.edu; Gunther Eysenbach - geysenba@ehealthinnovation.org; Claudette DeLenardo - claudette.delenardo@grhosp.on.ca; Tamara Harth - tamara.har@sunnybrook.ca; Howard Pai - hpai@bccancer.bc.ca; Kevin J Leonard - k.leonard@utoronto.ca

* Corresponding author †Equal contributors

Abstract

Background: Access to personal health information through the electronic health record (EHR) is an innovative means to enable people to be active participants in their own health care. Currently this is not an available option for consumers of health. The absence of a key technology, the EHR, is a significant obstacle to providing patient accessible electronic records. To assess the readiness for the implementation and adoption of EHRs in Canada, a national scan was conducted to determine organizational readiness and willingness for patient accessible electronic records.

Methods: A survey was conducted of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Canadian public and acute care hospitals.

Results: Two hundred thirteen emails were sent to CEOs of Canadian general and acute care hospitals, with a 39% response rate. Over half (54.2%) of hospitals had some sort of EHR, but few had a record that was predominately electronic. Financial resources were identified as the most important barrier to providing patients access to their EHR and there was a divergence in perceptions from healthcare providers and what they thought patients would want in terms of access to the EHR, with providers being less willing to provide access and patients desire for greater access to the full record.

Conclusion: As the use of EHRs becomes more commonplace, organizations should explore the possibility of responding to patient needs for clinical information by providing access to their EHR. The best way to achieve this is still being debated.
Background
E-Health is described as a revolutionary new paradigm for health care that has evolved as a result of advances in information, telecommunication, network technologies and information management. These technologies have transformed the way that health care is delivered [1,2]. Today’s technology has the capability to support people in managing almost all aspects of their health care, from seeking general health information to clinical consults without ever having to leave their homes; yet even the most basic personal health information, like specific results of tests, contained in medical charts is not currently readily available through existing technologies (like the Internet) to most consumers of health care [3,4]. This inaccessibility makes it difficult for consumers of health care to be active participants in their own health and wellness. There is consensus that in order for patients to be true partners in the health care encounter, they must have access to their own personal clinical health information (Wiljer et al., Patient Accessible EHRs: Building consensus for successful implementation strategies, submitted) that is commonly stored in institutional electronic health records (EHRs). An Electronic Health Record (EHR) is a computerized version of an individual’s health record that may contain a person’s full health and medical record or can be used for certain records, such as lab results, in conjunction with a more traditional paper-based patient chart. The EHR may be accessible online from many separate, interoperable automated systems within an electronic network and it can facilitate the electronic integration of health care providers by enabling the retrieval of information about patients when and where it is most needed [5]. The ability to provide patients with access to their personal health information can be facilitated through the use of emerging technologies, most commonly through the Internet [6-9]. This type of access to one’s own health information can help prepare individuals to better manage and cope with their health status. In turn, this type of access may have a positive impact on the health care system that can be recognized through more efficient use of resources resulting in health care savings [3]. Access to personal health information is a fundamental right supported by the law [10] and the emergence of new technologies alters how that right can be fulfilled. It has been demonstrated that access to one’s health information using these technologies is desired by many health care consumers [7,11-15].

Early adopters of new technologies in health care, primarily in the United States and the United Kingdom, are reporting the potential benefits of providing people with access to their electronic health record [6,9,13,14,16-18], with little to no disruption in clinical operations [19]. Access to one’s medical record in either traditional paper format or electronically can potentially: 1) enhance patients’ understanding of their condition [20]; 2) empower individuals to become active participants in their own care [21-23]; 3) result in better medical management [24,25]; 4) lead to more effective provider-patient communication [20,25-27] and; 5) may improve satisfaction and outcomes [25,28], possibly through improved adherence to health promotion recommendations [29]. A recent randomized trial (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT00142077) demonstrated a modest impact of a Personal Health Record-based employee health program with tailored, targeted health messages on influenza prevention and control [30]. Providing patient access to their personal health information is also cited as a way of achieving a model of patient-centred care [31].

Although technology exists to support patient access to their medical record, and the law supports individuals’ rights to access their health record the health care community has been slow to adopt the use of patient accessible electronic health records. Although several reasons could be cited for this slow uptake process, the absence of a key technology, the EHR, is a significant obstacle to making progress in providing patient accessible electronic records. A 2003 white paper from the American Association of Medical Informatics identifies “the lack of ubiquitous EHR usage” as the main environmental barrier to patient accessible health records [32].

There has recently been a noticeable increase in institutional interest in and adoption of EHRs and Canada Health Infoway has set the target of 50% of Canadians having their electronic health records available to their healthcare providers by 2010 [33]. The adoption of systems that provide patient access to these EHRs, such as patient portals or personal health records (PHRs) has been slower to follow. Systems such as these capture either elements of data or all the data stored in the EHR [5] and can be easily provided to the consumer. A PHR system can also incorporate data entered by patients themselves. Slower growth in this area may result from physicians’ reluctance to embrace the use of information and communication technology (ICT) solutions [34-36].

To assess the readiness for the implementation and adoption of EHRs and PHRs in Canada, a national scan of Canadian general and acute care hospitals was conducted to determine organizational readiness for patient accessible records, to understand organization and staff values related to patient access to their records, and organizational perceptions of patients desires and needs. The scan was conducted under the auspices of the Canadian Committee for Patient Accessible Electronic Health Records (CCPAEHR). The CCPAEHR is a group of Canadian researchers, clinicians, information specialists and educators working together to assess and promote patient access
to and involvement with EHRs. This paper will report on the results of this scan and will draw conclusions in an attempt to elucidate the trends in the adoption of EHRs in Canadian hospitals, and the movement towards adoption of PHRs and patient accessible EHRs.

**Methods**

**Study population**
The frame sample was generated from Scott’s Canadian Medical Directory. Eligibility required a designation of either public or acute care hospital, and an active email address for the institutions’ Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

**Research design**
Based on a review of the literature and input from members of CCPAEHR and staff at Canada Health Infoway, a questionnaire was created to measure national readiness for the adoption and implementation of the EHR and perceptions regarding the use of EHR and PHR [See Additional file 1]. The survey instrument included questions pertaining to current record keeping practices using a paper based record and an EHR, the information technology infrastructure to support the EHR, and perceptions about providing patient access to the EHR. Access was defined broadly and could include a number of solutions. For the purpose of this study, we were interested in any configuration of electronic patient information that could be called an EHR, including a computerized record of a person’s health and/or medical history that may contain a person’s full health and medical record, or just certain records, such as laboratory or diagnostic testing results. Having access to these results provides people, particularly those with chronic illness, access to important information that can help in disease self-management. The questionnaire was reviewed, and tested for face validity by members of the CCPAEHR.

Data collection took place over an eight-week period and CEOs of eligible institutions were emailed a letter of introduction and a link to the electronic questionnaire in English and French. The CEO was asked to complete the questionnaire and submit it within two weeks of receipt. In addition, the CEO was asked to forward the link for the questionnaire to the chiefs of medicine, nursing and informatics, or the individual who was regarded as the most appropriate to respond. A reminder email message was sent two weeks after initial contact was made, and again, three weeks prior to the close of study date.

**Analytic approach**
Data were analyzed using both Questionpro [37] and the SPSS statistical analysis package. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the basic features of the data, and cross tabulations were used to show the relationship between variables.

**Ethics**
This study was approved by the Research Ethics Board (06-0318-CE) of the University Health Network.

**Results**
Two hundred thirteen emails were sent to CEOs of Canadian general and acute care hospitals with a 39% (83/213) response rate.

**Demographics**
As shown in Table 1, while the majority of respondents were from Ontario 58.8% (n = 30), there was representation from across the country. Most of the respondents (67.9%) selected “other” to describe their role. These individuals most commonly self-identified as either Managers of Health Records or Health Information Services or Privacy Officers. Just under half of the responses came from institutions with fewer than 100 beds, but there were responses from a number of medium-sized and larger hospitals as well. One respondent answered on behalf of a health care system (which included 13 hospitals in total), but over half (58.5%) indicated that their hospital was part of a larger health care system.

**The electronic record**
Just over half (54.2%) of hospitals surveyed reported having some sort of EHR; however, 97.6% indicated that the EHR was not the sole method for recording patient information. There were very few institutions that had predominately an electronic record; most commonly (39%)
hospitals had records that were between 11–50% electronic (Table 2).

Almost half (44.6%) of the respondents thought that their institution was "on track" with the rest of the country in terms of adoption and use of an EHR; 35.4% indicated that their institution was lagging behind on adoption and implementation. For hospitals that have an electronic record, adoption of the EHR was most commonly a recent phenomenon. Just over half (67.5%) of respondents reported adoption of the EHR within the last 5 years (Table 3).

**Perceptions about providing access to the EHR**

Survey respondents identified hospital financial resources as the most important barrier (86.7%) to effectively providing patients access to their EHR. Patient computer literacy and clinician buy-in were also thought to be very important barriers to patient access (Table 4).

Only 3% of respondents had conducted any formal survey of staff perceptions about providing patients with access to their EHR and there were no respondents who had conducted a survey of patient perceptions regarding access to their EHR. Very few (3.6%) respondents thought that staff would be willing and eager to provide patient access to their EHR. Just over one-quarter (28.6%) thought that staff would be hesitant but willing to provide such access and 17.9% thought that staff would support partial access for patients to their EHR. There were an additional 50% who responded that staff perceptions were unknown to them, or that no survey had been conducted. Respondents were also asked to give their opinions on what they thought patients’ perceptions were regarding access to their EHR. Less than one half of respondents thought that patients would be eager (17%) or hesitant (17%) to access their electronic health record.

When asked about which elements of the EHR people should have access to, the respondents indicated that staff would be most willing to provide patients with access to their test results (25%) and diagnosis (20.2%), but a quarter thought that patients would desire access to their full record (Table 5).

**Discussion**

The Canadian health care system is characterized by two trends: the emergence of e-health [1,38] and a shift from paternalistic-type medicine to a consumer-based approach [11,39]. Today’s patients can be well versed in their disease, seek information from numerous and varying sources including the Internet and have the desire to be active participants in making health care decisions [40]. Patients are now more commonly regarded as partners in their care [41-44]. They are often eager to retrieve quality health related information on the Internet. There is a growing interest in developing innovative ways of providing access to one’s personal health and medical record [6,9,13,16,19,45,46].

The results of this research suggest that Canadian acute care and public hospitals are moving in the direction of adopting EHRs as is indicated in Tables 2 and 3. The results suggest this is especially true in the province of Ontario from which a majority of respondents came. The high percentage of respondents from Ontario reflects a system of less centralization in Ontario than in others provinces across the country. Over half of the respondents to this study had some sort of EHR in place for between 1 – 5 years, but the EHR was not the only mechanism for recording patient data, as shown in Table 2.

A significant number of our respondents thought that their institution was on track with the rest of the country in terms of adoption of EHR. This finding supports the general trend towards adoption of this technology; however, with the national agenda of having a fully interoperable pan-Canada EHR by 2010 [47], it is somewhat discouraging that over 30% of institutions self-identified as being behind on adoption and implementation of EHRs. Respondents identified financial barriers as the major obstacle to implementation of EHRs. This result reflects the perception of respondents; not necessarily the percentage of the institutional budget spent on information technologies (IT); information that was not solicited in this survey.

Organizations seem to be responding even more slowly to the consumerist trend in health care, and people’s desire for access to their health information. Less than 25% of participants responded that patients would like access to their full electronic health record and only 16% thought that patients would like access to their lab results. This
perception is in contrast to other Canadian studies that suggest that the majority of patients and the public would like access to components of their health record [15]. Although less than 10% of respondents thought that health care professionals would want patients accessing their full EHR, 25% did indicate that they thought patients should have access to some records such as laboratory test results.

For successful wide scale adoption of new technologies like EHR, this survey highlights the need for a culture shift in the health care environment to one that better supports embracing new technologies. There were a small number of respondents who self-identified as leaders in Canada in the field of EHR. These early adopters play an important role in influencing and encouraging others in the change process. Early adopters of PHR technologies in the United States and United Kingdom, for example, have reported that the majority of participants found that accessing their health record was easy and that their medical record was complete and accurate [13,14]. The majority of participants in that study found the information in their PHR to be understandable. Only a few respondents were concerned about confidentiality or about the possibility of learning of negative test results [46]. These results suggest that providing people with access to their EHR is potentially less of a problem than is feared by many health care providers. It also suggests that our respondents' perceptions about patient attitudes regarding access to their PHR may not reflect what patients really want.

Our results suggest that administrators of Canadian Healthcare institutions and health care providers are still anxious about providing access to their EHR. When asked about providers' willingness to provide patient access to the EHR only very few respondents thought that providers would be eager and willing to open the record. On the other hand, when asked about patient desire to access the EHR many more respondents thought that patients would be willing and eager. Similarly, in the opinion of the health care administrators and providers, clinicians were less likely to be willing to open up the full EHR, despite the belief that patients would want access to the full record. These results are representative of the disconnect that exists between consumer desire and provider willingness. These results most likely reflect unwillingness on the part of the providers to give up "ownership" (a legal concept) of the medical record. Providers traditionally have seen the record as existing in their domain and have not fully embraced the role of custodian of the record (Wiljer D, Utrowitz S, Carter A, Leonard K, Catton P. Guardians and Gatekeepers: Whose Record is it Anyways? Submitted).

Recognizing this, systems can be implemented that would reduce provider/intuitional hesitation for providing patient access to the EHR. Firstly, having a mechanism in place to deal with patient anxieties that may result from viewing their record is necessary, and secondly there needs to be a refocusing of attitudes related to the understanding of EHR ownership. Traditionally, the perception has been that ownership of the record has resided with the provider or the institution [48], when in fact certain jurisdictions have described the provider/institution more as the custodian of information (PHIPA 54.1). A landmark ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada in 1992 (McInerney vs MacDonald) specified that patients have a right to access their personal health information. Embracing these types of changes would advance the system towards wider adoption of a ubiquitous EHR, which would in turn support readily accessible PHRs.

**Limitations**

Due to the complex methodology for distributing the questionnaire to the broadest pool of respondents, the reported response rate may not be completely accurate. Two hundred thirteen emails were sent to CEOs of Canadian general and acute care hospitals who were asked to forward the questionnaire to others in their institutions. CEOs who were responsible for more than one hospital within a health care system only received one link to the questionnaire. There was no method for tracking the number of questionnaires that were forwarded to multi-

---

**Table 4: Importance of Barriers to PAEHRs N = 54**

| Barriers                  | Very Important % | Important % | Moderately % | Not Important % | Not Very Important % |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Finances                  | 66.7             | 9.2         | 16.7         | 3.7             | 3.7                  |
| Clinician buy-in          | 50               | 27.8        | 14.8         | 7.4             | 0                    |
| Patient Access to Computers | 27.8          | 22.2        | 33.3         | 11.1            | 5.6                  |
| Patient Computer Literacy | 48.1             | 13          | 22.2         | 9.3             | 7.4                  |

**Table 5: Respondents’ Perceptions of Provider and Patient Attitudes Regarding Accessible Elements of the EHR**

| Elements of the EHR         | Provider % N = 84 | Patient % N = 68 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Full Record                 | 10.7              | 25               |
| Tests Results                | 25                | 16.2             |
| Diagnosis                   | 20.2              | 13.2             |
| Pathology Reports           | 10.7              | 5.9              |
| Clinician Notes             | 2.4               | 2.9              |
ple recipients within each institution, and therefore it was not possible to calculate the actual number of surveys distributed. There were at least 3 hospitals that had multiple respondents and one respondent who completed a single questionnaire for 13 separate hospitals. Although it is possible that more than the original 213 questionnaires were distributed, we can only report an approximate response rate of 39% (83/213) calculated based on the number of surveys originally distributed and the number of unique responses returned.

As a result of the low response rate, the results from this cross-sectional survey may not be representative of all Canadian acute care and general hospitals. The low number of respondents to the survey limited the authors to a descriptive analysis without making statistical inferences on the reliability of the comparisons.

Conclusion
A necessary pre-request for PHR adoption is the availability of EHR solutions. This study was undertaken to determine the readiness of Canadian hospitals to support patient access to the EHR. Readiness was determined not only based on the availability of an EHR but on institutional and provider perceptions of patients’ desires, ability and willingness to access their health record.

Results of this study suggests that Canadian hospitals are slowly moving in the direction of patient accessible EHRs. Although 54% of Canadian hospitals have adopted the use of EHRs, this adoption process is still in its infancy. Most institutions are in a state of transition and still have a significant percentage of their records in paper-based format. A full-scale adoption of these technologies poses several potential challenges and a significant proportion of Canadian hospitals are not fully prepared or engaged for the implementation of patient accessible EHRs.

The best way to achieve a balance between patients’ desire for access to their records and providers’ hesitations about providing that access is still being debated. Before widespread use of PHR can become a reality, it is paramount that change occurs in organizational culture around such issues as ownership and rights to personal health information. This requirement for change presents numerous future opportunities for a number of organizational and research projects aimed at addressing these needs. The challenges should not arrest the movement towards the implementation of PHRs, but should fuel research to create the best possible service to meet all of the stakeholders’ needs.

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors’ contributions
SU participated in the design of the study, the development of the questionnaire, the analysis of data and drafted the final manuscript. DW participated in the design of the study, the development of the questionnaire and contributed to the final manuscript. EA was responsible for data management and contributed to the analysis. GE contributed to the creation of the questionnaire and to the final manuscript. CDL contributed to the creation of the questionnaire and to the final manuscript. HP contributed to the creation of the questionnaire and to the final manuscript. TH contributed to the creation of the questionnaire and to the final manuscript. KIL contributed to the creation of the questionnaire and to the final manuscript.

Additional material

Additional file 1
Appendix A. CCPAEHR Survey (English).
Click here for file [http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/supplementary/1472-6947-8-33-S1.doc]

Acknowledgements
The authors would like to acknowledge the members of the Canadian Committee for Patient Accessible Electronic Health Records (CCPAEHR) for their support of projects related to patient accessible electronic health records and for their contributions to this manuscript. They would also like to acknowledge Naa Kwarley Quartey for her assistance in compiling the manuscript. The authors thank the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) and Canada Health Infoway (CHI) for their financial support for this project and Cancer Care Ontario for their ongoing financial support of CCPAEHR and its activities. In addition, the authors would like to thank research assistant David Neligan, and summer student Julia Catton for managing logistics of the survey.

References
1. Tan J: The Next Health Care Frontier San Francisco: Jossey-Bass A Wiley Imprint; 2005.
2. Hatcher M, Heetebry I: Information technology in the future of health care. J Med Syst 2004, 28:673-688.
3. Leonard KJ, Wiljer D: Patients are destined to manage their care. Healthcare Quarterly 2007, 10:76-78.
4. Winkelman WJ, Leonard KJ, Rossos PG: Patient-perceived usefulness of online electronic medical records: employing grounded theory in the development of information and communication technologies for use by patients living with chronic illness. Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association 2005, 12:306-314.
5. Tang PC, Ash JS, Bates DW, Overhage JM, Sands DZ: Personal health records: definitions, benefits, and strategies for overcoming barriers to adoption. J Am Med Inform Assoc 2006, 13:121-126.
6. Ross S, Lin CT: A randomized controlled trial of a patient-accessible electronic medical record. AMIA Annu Symp Proc 2003, 990.
7. Ross SE, Lin CT: The effects of promoting patient access to medical records: a review. Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association 2003, 10:129-138.
8. Pai HH, Lau F. Web-based electronic health information systems for prostate cancer patients. Can J Urol 2005, 12(7):2700-2709.
9. Ross SE, Moore LA, Earnest MA, Wittevrongel L, Lin CT: Providing a web-based online medical record with electronic communication capabilities to patients with congestive heart failure: randomized trial. J Med Internet Res 2004, 6:e12.
10. Davies J. Patients' rights of access to their health records. Med Law Int 1996, 2:189-213.
11. Eyssenbach G, Diepen TL. The role of e-health and consumer health informatics for evidence-based patient choice in the 21st century. Clin Dermatol 2001, 19:11-17.
12. Eyssenbach G. Consumer health informatics. BMJ 2000, 320:1713-1716.
13. Pyper C, Amery J, Watson M, Crook C. Patients' experiences when accessing their on-line electronic patient records in primary care. British Journal of General Practice 2004, 54:38-43.
14. Eyssenbach G, Amery J, Watson M, Crook C. Access to electronic health records in primary care-a survey of patients’ views. Medical Science Monitor 2004, 10:
15. Wiljer D, Bogomilsky S, Catton P, Murray C, Stewart J, Minden M. Getting results for hematology patients through access to the electronic health record. Can J Nurs Res 2006, 16:154-164.
16. Ralston JD, Carrell D, Reid R, Anderson M, Moran M, Hereford J. Patient web services integrated with a shared medical record: patient use and satisfaction. J Am Med Inform Assoc 2007, 14:798-806.
17. Pyper C, Amery J, Watson M, Crook C, Thomas B. Patients’ access to their online electronic health records. J Telemed Telecare 2002, 8 Suppl 2:103-105.
18. Ralston JD, Revere D, Robins LS, Goldberg HI. Patients’ experience with a diabetes support programme based on an interactive electronic medical record: qualitative study. BMJ 2004, 328:1159.
19. Cimino JJ, Patel VL, Kushniruk AW. What do patients do with access to their medical records? Medinfo 2001, 10:1440-1444.
20. Cimino JJ, Patel VL, Kushniruk AW. The patient clinical information system (PaCIS): technical solutions for and experience with giving patients access to their electronic medical records. International Journal of Medical Informatics 2002, 68:13-127.
21. Moehr JR, Grant A. Medical informatics and medical education in Canada in the 21st century. Clin Invest Med 2000, 23(4):275-280.
22. Stein EJ, Furedy RL, Simonton Mj, Neuffer CH. Patient access to medical records on a psychiatric inpatient unit. Am Psychiatric 1979, 136:327-329.
23. Luckett F, Azarias M, Gorz M, Prokosch HU. Functions of an electronic health record. International Journal of Computerized Dentistry 2002, 5:125-132.
24. Mcghee SM, Hedley AJ, Jones RB, Cheng KK. Patient held records: their current status and implications for health care in Hong Kong. Hong Kong J Pub Health; Publisher, 1990.
25. Earnest MA, Ross SE, Wittevrongel L, Moore LA, Lin CT: Use of a patient-accessible electronic medical record in a primary practice for congestive heart failure: patient and physician experiences. Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association 2004, 11:410-417.
26. Elbourne D, Richardson M, Chalmers I, Waterhouse I, Holt E. The Newbury Maternity Care Study: a randomized controlled trial to assess a policy of women holding their own obstetric records. Br J Obstet Gynaecol 1987, 94(7):612-619.
27. Homer CS, Davis Gk, Everitt LS. The introduction of a woman-held record into a hospital antenatal clinic: the bring your own records study. Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol 1999, 39(1):54-57.
28. Wu RC, Delgado D, Costigna J, Maclver J, Ross H. Pilot Study of an Internet Patient-Physician Communication Tool For Heart Failure Disease Management. JMIR 2005, 7:e6.
29. Bronson DL, K OM. The impact of shared medical records on smoking awareness and behavior in ambulatory care. J Gen Intern Med 1986, 1:34-37.
30. Bourgeois F, Simons W, Olson K, Brownstein J, Mandl K. Evaluation of Influenza Prevention in the Workplace Using a Personally Controlled Health Record: Randomized Controlled Trial. J Med Internet Res 2008 in press.
31. Gerteis M, Edgman-Levitan S, Daley J, Delbanco TL: Through the Patient’s Eyes: Understanding and Promoting Patient-Centered Care San Francisco: Jossey-Bass; 1993.
32. Tang PC, Black W, Buchanan J, Young CY, Hooper D, Lane SR, Love B, Mitchell C, Smith N, Turnbull J. PAMFOnline: integrating EHealth with an electronic medical record system. AMIA Annu Symp Proc 2003:644-648.
33. Infoway: Canada Health Infoway: Who we are. In Book Canada Health Infoway: Who we are Volume 2008. City: Canada Health Infoway; 2008.
34. Poon EG, Blumenthal D, Jagg A, Honour MM, Bates DW, Kauhal R. Overcoming barriers to adopting and implementing computerized physician order entry systems in U.S. hospitals. Health Aff (Millwood) 2004, 23:184-190.
35. Ash JS, Bates DW. Factors and forces affecting EHR system adoption: report of a 2004 ACMI discussion. J Am Med Inform Assoc 2005, 12:8-12.
36. Lapointe L, Bivard S. Getting physicians to accept new information technology: insights from case studies. Cmaj 2006, 174:1573-1578.
37. Questionpro.com [http://www.questionpro.com]
38. Eyssenbach G. What is e-health? J Med Internet Res 2001, 3:e20.
39. Runy LA. Consumers in control. How the Net will reshape health care. Hosp Health Netw 2000, 74(12):suppl 4-7.
40. Urowitz S, Deber RB. How consumerist do people want to be? Preferred role in decision making of individuals with HIV/AIDS. Healthcare Policy 2008, 3.
41. Deber RB: Physicians in health care management: 8. The patient-physician partnership: decision making, problem solving and the desire to participate. [see comment]. [Review] [29 refs]. CMAJ Canadian Medical Association Journal 1994, 151:423-427.
42. Deber RB. Shared decision making in the real world. [comment]. Journal of General Internal Medicine 1996, 11:377-378.
43. Deber RB, Kraetschmer N, Irvine J. What role do patients wish to play in treatment decision making? Archives of Internal Medicine 1996, 156:1414-1420.
44. Cimino JJ, Li J, Mendonca EA, Sengupta S, Patel VL, Kushniruk AW. What do patients do with access to their electronic medical records via the World Wide Web. Proc AMIA Symp 2000:151-155.
45. Hassol A, Walker JM, Kidder D, Rokita K, Young D, Pierdon S, Deitz D, Kuck S, Ortiz E. Patient experiences and attitudes about access to a patient electronic health care record and linked web messaging. Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association 2004, 11:505-513.
46. Infoway CH: Canada Health Infoway. In Book Canada Health Infoway Volume 2007. City: Canada Health Infoway; 2005.
47. Leonard KJ, Casselman M, Wiljer D. Who will demand access to their Personal Health Record (PHR)?: A focus on the users of health services and what they want. Healthcare Quarterly 2008, 11:92-96.

Pre-publication history

The pre-publication history for this paper can be accessed here:

http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6947/8/33/prepub