



NEWS RELEASE

Providence Care becomes one of first health service providers in Canada to roll-out ePatient Record system across hospital, long-term care and community programs

February 7, 2011 - Providence Care is beginning a transformation which will result in all patient, client and resident care records being made electronic. The shift from paper-based care records to an “ePatient Record” will mean better and safer care for the thousands of people receiving services at Providence Care's hospital, mental health, community and long-term care sites.

“This new system will help our physicians and health professionals by providing accurate, timely information at the point-of-care, to better support the decisions that are made,” says Dr. John Puxty, Providence Care’s Chief of Staff. Dr. Puxty notes that the ePatient Record in effect provides “the right information to the right people, at the right time.”

With the implementation of an ePatient Record, Providence Care becomes one of the first health service providers in Canada to implement electronic records across not only hospital programs, but also across a long-term care home and community programs. For example, the integrated system will mean a long-term care resident at Providence Manor, who requires rehabilitation treatment at St. Mary’s of the Lake Hospital or Mental Health Services, will have one Providence Care electronic patient record.

“Other hospitals have already implemented electronic patient record systems,” says Allen Prowse, Providence Care’s Vice-President of Quality, Partnerships and Community Programs. “We’ll be taking it one step farther and also rolling out the system to long-term care and community programs. Our community programs alone provide over 85,000 visits to clients per year – so the impact is significant.”

To help demonstrate the impact, Providence Care staff gathered the paperwork that is completed for an average patient, client or resident treatment or stay. Put end-to-end, the forms measured approximately 15 metres. When the ePatient Record is in place, the paper records will no longer be necessary as the patient, client and resident information will be replaced by computer files. Instead of transporting physical record files, appropriate health care practitioners will be able to access the records immediately on a secure database.

Providence Care estimates it will be two and a half years before the ePatient Record is fully implemented across its programs.

Providence Care is southeastern Ontario’s leading provider of specialized mental health care, physical medicine and rehabilitation, specialized geriatric services, complex continuing care, palliative care and long-term care. Affiliated with [Queen’s University](#) in Kingston, and as a member of the [Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario](#), Providence Care is a major centre for health education and research. Providence Care is sponsored by the [Catholic Health Corporation of Ontario](#). In 2011, Providence Care is celebrating its 150th anniversary – over 150 years of “enhancing the quality of life” of those we serve.

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