

Defining the Content of the Computable Medical Record

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A Pragmatic and Cost-Saving Initiative of the College of Family Practice of Canada

"If we accept the limits of discipline and form as we keep data in the medical record the physician's task will be better defined...and the art of medicine will gain freedom at the level of interpretation and be released from the constraints that disorder and confusion always impose."

Weed, 1968

In to this



Clinician Engagement

Clinicians need no technical knowledge to engage in archetypes => the technical aspects of archetypes are kept hidden 'under the hood'.

Clinicians use their domain knowledge to ensure that the clinical content within each archetype is correct and appropriate.

Clinicians around the World are already contributing to an open library of archetypes.

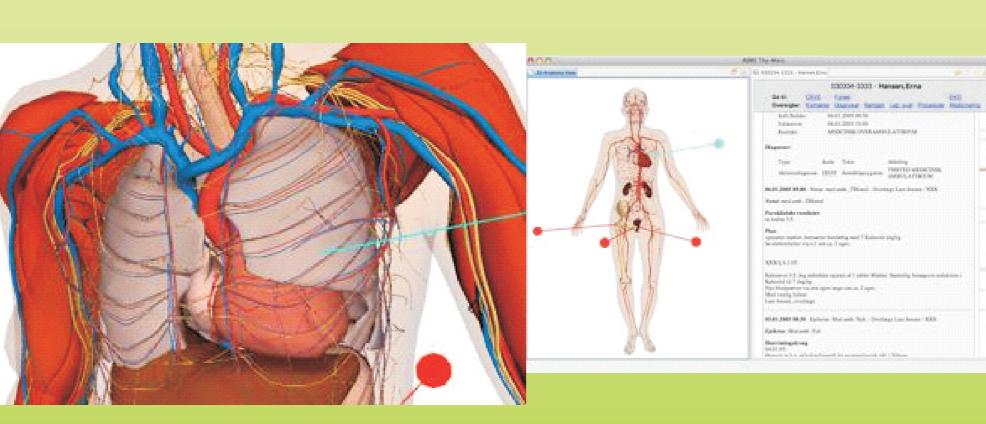
"The unintended consequences of EHR use"

"the unintended consequences of EHR use" can be fatal to little children and other humans. (Han YY, et al. Unexpected increased mortality after implementation of a commercially sold computerized physician order entry system. Pediatrics. 2005;116:1506–1512.)

A clinician-led approach to a 'computable EHR' => a long term, data driven electronic health record based on high quality, standardised, public clinical content specifications; can avoid the "the unintended consequences of EHR use"

Or we can build this

3D Patient Avatar for Clinical Information Representation in the Computable Medical Record



Knowledge Management

A Clinical Knowledge Manager (CKM) is an online clinical knowledge management tool which provides a repository of archetypes and other clinical knowledge artefacts.

A CFCP CKM would be the leading, peer-reviewed, clinical knowledge resource for all parties seeking inter-operable, standardised models for representing health information in Canada.

This will provide Clinical Practice Guidelines a meaningful and pragmatic place in the computable medical record.

The ELEPHANT in the ROOM

The missing element of Canada's current eHealth strategy is:

"The need to define the clinical content and its representation in the computable health record that is required by clinicians for safe, effective and efficient clinical care"

Family practice is the hub of the Canadian healthcare ecology.

The Family Practice community is best placed to lead the definition of the clinical content that will be the foundation for Canada's computed health records.

High profile Canadian agencies currently involved in the definition of clinical content

- Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI);
- Canada Health Infoway (CHI) or (Infoway);
- Pathology and Radiology system developers;
- Clinical system developers;
- Professional medical teaching accreditation bodies; and
- Provincial medical licensing organisations.

We can turn this

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A clinician-led approach to a computable medical record

This approach is gathering momentum with uptake and interest by the national programs of Sweden, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Chile, Brazil, Kazakhstan and Singapore.

It involves collaborative development of clinical content definitions known as ARCHETYPES which effectively places clinicians 'in the driver's seat' => determining the content that they want and need in computable medical records to support their care of patients.

http://www.openehr.org/home.html

Who are the beneficiaries of an CFPC-led drive for a national consensus on clinical content?

- Patients;
- CHI, CIHI and Provincial jurisdictions;
- Health System data consumers;
- Clinical System vendors; and, of course,
- Clinicians

Conclusion

By driving and coordinating a formal archetype development, collaboration and publication effort for the representation of clinical knowledge in the computable medical record, the CFPC will become the national leader in the drive toward safety and quality in next generation EHRs.

By providing financial support to this clinician-led initiative, the Governments will gain a structured access to the collective knowledge of the breadth of the Canadian clinical stakeholder community.