

Orion Health to Help Alberta Physicians Improve Chronic Disease Management

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Alberta's primary care networks (PCN) Calgary Health Region and Capital Health have selected Orion Health to enhance accessibility of data from regional chronic disease management registries for clinicians affiliated with PCN.

Alberta PCN is an outcome of Alberta's Primary Care Initiative (PCI) developed in 2003 by the joint efforts of Alberta Health and Wellness, the Alberta Medical Association, and Alberta's Regional Health Authorities to improve health outcomes for all Albertans through improved access to family physicians and other care providers in Alberta. PCI focuses primarily on developing PCNs and helping them meet PCI objectives. There are about 28 PCNs in Alberta and about 13 in the planning stages. The Alberta PCN apart from Calgary Health Region and Capital Health also includes Chinook Health PCN, Palliser Health Region PCNs, David Thompson Regional Health Authority, East Central Health, Aspen Regional Health Authority, Peace Country Health and Northern Lights Health Region.

Under the terms of the new agreement, Orion will deploy its registry solution based on Concerto Physician Portal and cResults Viewer, enabling physicians to rapidly compare vital patient indicators of chronic conditions like diabetes, against nearly real-time data generated from the broader population. Physicians will be able to then drill-down those graphical results to a patient-centric view for on-time interventions as well as track various patient health indicators like blood pressure, body mass index, and most recent lab results like glycosylated haemoglobin (HBA1C). The registry will also provide access to disease prevalence data for improved statistical information and is expected to play a key role in improving the overall health of patients in Alberta with chronic diseases.

The Orion registry solution is a vital part of the Alberta Health and Wellness' province-wide electronic health record (EHR) program, also known as Alberta Netcare, launched in October 2003. Orion along with four other leading vendors- Hewlett-Packard, Oracle, Sierra Systems and Quovadx played key roles in developing the EHR. Orion was involved in the development of software for Netcare. As part of the Alberta-wide EHR initiative, the registry, in the first year of implementation, was able to collect 8,034 diabetic patients' data. Orion was also instrumental in building Capital Health's regional EHR and a Chronic Disease Management Infostructure for Calgary Health region. More than 100 physicians working in 22 clinics within three PCNs use the Orion registry. The solution when fully deployed is expected to support family physicians and specialists throughout Alberta in managing their chronic disease population using integrated patient profile viewer and population dashboard, and regional CDM registries. The move is also expected to reduce healthcare costs related to chronic diseases and improve patient health outcomes by empowering physicians with automated tools like notification alerts for attached patients; capability to identify unattached patients, tools for communication with fellow providers, and system-wide reporting tool for better program planning and population surveillance.

Orion Health is a leading provider of clinical workflow and integration technology for the healthcare sector. The company serves more than 1,000 clients around the world, including Lahey Clinic, New York State Department of Health, UCLA Medical Center, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Abbott Laboratories, Capital Health, New South Wales Health, and the New Zealand Ministry of Health. Headquartered in New Zealand, the company has offices in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia. Orion Health's network of global partners comprises of leading health system integrators and IT vendors such as Accenture, IBM, Oracle Corporation, Sierra Systems and others. The company received \$4.78 million in grant from Technology New Zealand, as part of a \$9.6 million project. The funding is expected to further boost the company's health IT product development processes, expand its business into new sectors in the healthcare market and double its New Zealand-based staff headcount.