

ment information tools

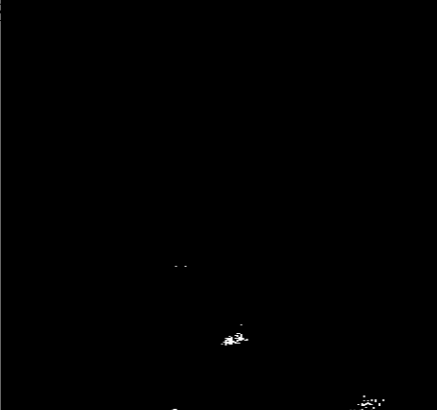
tools that help health providers proactively tackle chronic disease management.

It uses the patient information in each of the registries to create a "patient profile viewer" and a "population-based dashboard." These web-based tools provide accurate, real-time health summaries for patients with chronic conditions. The summaries help providers easily identify patient care needs and develop effective care plans. The summaries include, for example, information on the most current lab test results, complications, and smoking status.

The tools also help improve patient care by allowing clinicians to monitor care against clinical standards based on best practices. These web-based tools give care providers insight into how patients with chronic conditions are managing and how well their practice is providing care and services.

Other benefits include increased communication between care providers who share one information source for a patient and better coordinated patient care. The Alberta Infoway tools also provide indicators and alerts that allow care providers to focus attention on high-risk patients. The indicators may include whether the patient has a self-management plan in place, or is due for an eye or foot examination according to clinical practice guidelines. This proactive approach to care can decrease or prevent complications, increasing a patient's quality of life and decreasing the need for acute care services.

Plans are underway to start implementing the Alberta Infoway tools in the broader primary care community in both Edmonton and Calgary by the end of the year. The long range goal of the project is to implement the tools across the province. ●



Donna Strating (top left), Vice-President, Information Systems and Equipment and Chief Information Officer for Capital Health, and Pat Reader, Director, Continuum of Care for Advanced Technology for Calgary Health Region, are heading up the pilot for the chronic disease management information tools at clinics in Edmonton and Calgary.

Canada Health Infoway is a federally-funded, independent, not-for-profit organization whose members are Canada's 14 federal, provincial and territorial Deputy Ministers of Health. Infoway supports the growth of electronic health information systems and fosters collaboration in the development and implementation of these systems.

For more information, visit www.infoway-inforoute.ca