

Canadian IT agency signs deal for discounted online physician portal

Healthcare IT News

By *Richard Pizzi, Associate Editor* | 01/15/08

TORONTO - Canada Health Infoway has negotiated preferential conditions and pricing for an online portal for Canadian physicians. The agreement is expected to accelerate the implementation of electronic health records in [Canada](#).

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The agreed-upon technology is the Concerto Physician Portal from Orion Health of [Auckland, New Zealand](#). The Concerto portal is a secure, Web-based application that integrates patient information from various sources into a single record, unique to each patient.

The "preferred solution agreement" between Infoway and Orion will make it simpler for provinces and territories to acquire an online portal - or health record viewer - product for physicians, say Infoway executives.

"The EHR viewer is a vital tool for clinicians because it is the electronic gateway to the information clinicians rely on to make appropriate care decisions for their patients," said [Richard Alvarez](#), president and CEO of Canada Health Infoway.

"We are making great progress towards the modernization of Canadian patients' health information and that means more and more clinical data is being captured and stored electronically," [Alvarez](#) added.

Infoway leaders believe that access to an EHR portal is critical for Canadian physicians, as such technology eliminates the need for healthcare practitioners to learn multiple computer interfaces and improves accuracy by bringing information from across numerous systems into a single screen that is customizable for each user's requirement.

The organization's officials say these systems have particular benefits when implemented in a standards-based environment.

[Alvarez](#) stated that Infoway's "Preferred Solution Agreements" show that participating vendors have a deep understanding of the importance of a pan-Canadian EHR and the need to adopt established standards to ensure interoperability. Infoway believes that PSAs offer significant value, but the selection of specific healthcare IT vendors rests with the individual province or territory.

[Canada Health Infoway](#) is a federally funded, independent not-for-profit organization that invests with public sector partners to accelerate EHR adoption across [Canada](#).