

FACT SHEET (Regional): Physician Office Integration (North East)

Purpose of POI to Northerners

North East Physician Office Integration (POI) is an eHealth initiative to improve patient access and care coordination here in Northeastern Ontario. POI makes patient hospital reports available electronically, in a timely manner, to primary and community care physicians and nurse practitioners across the North East LHIN.

In our region, POI is supported by the North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and eHealth Ontario, and hosted by Health Sciences North.

POI enables patient hospital reports and/or results (e.g. discharge summaries, lab and diagnostic imaging reports) to be sent directly to the Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) of the patients' primary care providers (i.e. physicians and/or nurse practitioners). The intent of POI is for all participating hospitals in the North East LHIN to collectively send their data through one central channel to any physician and/or nurse practitioner that is set up to receive EMRs.



Dr. Thomas Crichton at City of Lakes Family Health Team

Benefits

POI will streamline hospital report information sharing between North East LHIN hospitals and primary and community care physicians/nurse practitioners.

Key Benefits of POI:

- Improves patient access to care;
- Enables reports and/or results to be received with shorter turnaround times, leading to better continuity of care;
- Reduces duplicate tests;
- Improves health care provider workflow;
- Reduces the time required to receive, review and respond to hospital reports;
- Simplifies the transmission of reports;
- Reduces and/or eliminates data re-entry and/or scanning and potential for data entry errors;
- Reduces paper-based medical record storage and handling;
- Enhances patient privacy and medical security; and
- Enables improved regional integration.

"In my practice here in Sudbury, Physician Office Integration has helped our office be more efficient in dealing with the management of lab and test reports by eliminating extra steps in filing and scanning paper. Other primary care providers should check out POI as it will improve their ability to deal with important test results quickly, and so improve the care they can offer to their patients."

- Dr. Thomas Crichton, City of Lakes Family Health Team

Progress to Date

Currently, primary care physicians and nurse practitioners in the North East LHIN are receiving patient hospital reports and/or results through POI from 22 of the 25 North East hospitals.

The hospitals currently participating in POI are:

- Anson General Hospital (Iroquois Falls)
- Bingham Memorial Hospital (Matheson)
- Blind River District Health Centre
- Chapleau Health Services
- Englehart and District Hospital
- Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre
- Health Sciences North
- Hornepayne Community Hospital
- Kirkland and District Hospital
- Lady Dunn Health Centre (Wawa)
- Lady Minto Hospital (Cochrane)
- Manitoulin Health Centre
- Mattawa Hospital
- North Bay Regional Health Centre
- Notre Dame Hospital (Hearst)
- Sault Area Hospital*
- Sensenbrenner Hospital (Kapusking)
- Smooth Rock Falls Hospital
- St. Joseph's General Hospital (Elliot Lake)
- Temiskaming Hospital
- Timmins and District Hospital
- West Nipissing General Hospital
- West Parry Sound Health Centre
- Weeneebayko Area Health Authority*

**Onboarding currently in progress*

Next Steps

POI is currently bringing on board the remaining hospitals targeted to participate and the remaining interested and eligible primary care providers. The next step for POI is to provide primary care clinicians with a notification capability in their EMRs to inform them when their patients visit a hospital emergency department.

Contact Information

For additional information, please contact:

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