

Corporate Backgrounder

Canada Health Inforoute's investment in Alberta's Drug Information System

In line with its mandate to accelerate the development and adoption of Electronic Health Records across Canada, Canada Health Inforoute plans to invest nearly 16 million dollars in the implementation of Alberta's Drug Information system, a major component of Alberta's EHR. This Drug Information system is also referred to as the Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN).

Inforoute and Alberta Health & Wellness will jointly invest in the successful implementation of the Drug Information System throughout Alberta and Inforoute will then consider the re-use of this technology in other jurisdictions in Canada. Implementation of the provincial EHR in Alberta, which includes PIN, began in July 2003 and will continue through March 2005.

Through this investment, *Inforoute* expects to help reduce cost, risk and implementation timeframes for other jurisdictions across Canada who will implement Drug Information Systems.

Inforoute's investments in Drug Information Systems, five planned projects in all, include: support for initial implementations; replication of the developed solutions in another jurisdiction; development of plans to deploy these systems in other jurisdictions; an application to provide online access to a patient's drug profile in hospital emergency rooms and other care settings; and, a project to develop national clinical messaging standards.

About Drug Information Systems

Drug Information Systems enable physicians to view a patient's complete drug profile online, order a prescription electronically and receive notification of drug interactions automatically. These new systems also allow pharmacists to view the order online, and send a message electronically to include in the patient's drug profile once the prescription is filled. Key benefits include:

- A decrease in prescription errors and a reduction in adverse drug complication
- Improved diagnosis support through availability of complete drug profile
- Fewer call-backs by pharmacists to physicians for clarification
- Lower costs through reduced hospitalization, long-term care admission and physician visits

About Canada Health Inforoute : Canada Health Inforoute's mission is to foster and accelerate the development and adoption of compatible electronic health information systems. *Inforoute's* approach is to invest strategically and work in partnership with stakeholders including the private sector. The Corporation acts as a catalyst, leveraging its financial resources through targeted investments and building on best practices. *Inforoute* is an independent, not-for-profit corporation created in response to a commitment of Canada's First Ministers when they agreed in September 2000 "to work together to strengthen Canada-wide health infrastructure to improve quality, access and timeliness of health care for Canadians."

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