



# eHealth InfoSource cybersanté



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*eHealth InfoSource cybersanté* is a free electronic current awareness service alerting readers to new electronic information resources available in eHealth. It is published by the Office of Health and the Information Highway, Health Canada. [More information](#) about this publication.

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## Announcements

### Welcome to the first issue of *eHealth InfoSource cybersanté* !

This monthly information bulletin is an electronic current awareness service alerting readers to new electronic information resources available in eHealth. It is published by the Office of Health and the Information Highway, Health Canada.

eHealth includes the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in the health sector, and topics such as telehealth, electronic health records, protection of personal health information, and standards.

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## eHealth 2003

The Office of Health and the Information Highway (OHIH) will be at the eHealth 2003 conference being held May 24-27 in Toronto.

Please drop by our booth (#108, beside the escalators) and learn more about our program and services. Let us give you a personal tour of our Web site and databases. We look forward to meeting you.

Attend our sessions :

- Monday, May 26 11:00 am - 12:00 pm : "CHIPP (Canada Health Infostructure Partnerships Program) Privacy Gap Assessment Survey" by Jeannine Parent and Colleen Bolger, Health Canada.
- Monday, May 26 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm : "Canadian eHealth Initiatives Workshop" by Gabriel Lepkey, Health Canada.
- Monday, May 26 3:30pm - 4:30pm : "Transforming the health system through telehealth in rural, remote and northern communities", Rachel Bard and David Cowperthwaite, New Brunswick Health and Wellness; Tina McKinnon, Nunavut Health and Social Services; and Robert Hanson, Health Canada.
- Tuesday, May 27 9:00 am - 10:30 am : "Demonstrating the Impact of Telehealth Applications: CHIPP (Canada Health Infostructure Partnerships Program) at Midterm" by Sandra Chatterton, Health Canada.
- Poster presentation on the CHIPP Standards and Interoperability Survey by Brenda Shestowsky, Health Canada.

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## Conferences

Conferences happening in the next 6 months in Canada, that focus on information and communications technologies in health, health informatics, health information management, health technology assessment, and privacy. Access all of the upcoming [Conferences](#) listed on our site (including conferences from around the world and into 2004).

### June 2003

June 2-3, 2003. **Okanagan Technology Symposium 2003 : Health Care Transformation through Collaboration.** (Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada.)

<http://www.rebootbc.com/okanagan2003/index.htm>

June 5-7, 2003. **The Health Information Management Train : Get on Board, Get on the Right Track.** (Toronto, Ontario, Canada.) [http://www.chra.ca/download\\_doc/2003ConfBrochure.DOC](http://www.chra.ca/download_doc/2003ConfBrochure.DOC)

June 11-13, 2003. **"Place" and 21st Century Health Care Research : Concepts, Methods, and Findings.** (Toronto, Ontario, Canada.) <http://www.hcerc.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/hcerc.woa/15/wa/ICWorkshopDisplayDirect?wosid=yCB44XSHm8G73JX6nEV8x96BeP3>

June 22-25, 2003. **ISTAHC. 2003 : Improving Outcomes through Health Technology Assesment.** (Canmore, Alberta, Canada.) <http://www.istahc2003.org/home.cfm>

June 24-27, 2003. **The Fourth Annual Telehealth Research Summer Institute : TRSI 2003 2003.** (Calgary, Alberta, Canada.) [http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/TRSI\\_General.htm](http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/TRSI_General.htm)

### July 2003

July 20-24, 2003. **SPECTS'03 : 2003 International Symposium on Performance Evaluation of Computer and Telecommunication Systems.** (Montreal, Quebec, Canada.) <http://scs.org/confernc/ssimc/ssimc03/cfp/spects03.htm>

### September 2003

September 10-13, 2003. **Case Mix 2003 : Ventures, Innovations and Quality in Health Care.** (Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.) <http://www.casemixconference.com/>

September 18-19, 2003. **Fourth Symposium on Telehealth / Quatrième Symposium Télésanté : Les Réalités du Virtuel.** (Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.) <http://www.prosante.com/En/Events.htm>

September 29-30, 2003. **Health Privacy** (Toronto, Ontario, Canada.) [http://www.insightinfo.com/conferences/brochures/brochure.cfm?product\\_code=HCC03452](http://www.insightinfo.com/conferences/brochures/brochure.cfm?product_code=HCC03452)

### October 2003

October 5-7, 2003. **Telehealth 2003 : The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Telehealth.** (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.) <http://www.cst-sct.org/conference.php>

October 24-26, 2003. **Weekend Immersion in Nursing Informatics (WINI).** (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.) <http://www.onig.on.ca/index.php?module=PostCalendar&func=view&viewtype=details&eid=19>

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## Electronic Documents

New publications including government white papers and reports, industry publications, and periodical articles, which are available for free on the Internet, and which are published by authoritative sources. Access more than 2400 publications via the searchable [eHealth Online Literature Catalogue](#).

### **2003 Federal Budget Beefs up Spending on Healthcare Technologies**

Shaw, Andy. Canadian Healthcare Technology, May 2003.

<http://www.canhealth.com/current%20issue.html#anchor59158>

### **American Oncologists' Views of Internet Use by Cancer Patients : A Mail Survey of American Society of Clinical Oncology Members**

Helft, Paul R. et al. Journal of Clinical Oncology, 21:5, March 2003, pp. 942-947.

<http://www.jco.org/cgi/content/full/21/5/942>

### **Backgrounder on Infoway Project Investments**

Canada Health Infoway Inc. Canada : CHI Inc., 2002.

<http://www.infoway-inforoute.ca/preview/pdf/MediaBackgrounder-Invest01.pdf>

### **The Changing Face of Ambulatory Medicine - Reimbursing Physicians for Computer-Based Care : ACP Analysis and Recommendations to Assure Fair Reimbursement for Physician Care Rendered Online American College of Physicians.**

American College of Physicians. United States : American College of Physicians, 2003.

<http://www.acponline.org/hpp/e-consult.pdf>

### **Clearing the Hurdles to Decision Support**

Schuerenberg, Beckie Kelly. Health Data Management, May 2003.

<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/html/current/PastIssueStory.cfm?PostID=14878&PastMonth=May&PastYear=2003>

### **Containing a New Infection with New Technology: a Web-based Response to SARS**

VanDenKerkhof, Elizabeth G. et al. CMAJ, 168:10, May 13, 2003, pp. 1259-1262.

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/168/10/1259>

### **Creating a Community of Practice : The Richmond Physicians' IT User Group**

Brookstone, Alan. Canadian Healthcare Technology, May 2003.

This article describes the formation of a physicians' IT user group.

<http://www.canhealth.com/current%20issue.html#anchor59971>

### **eHealth Applications in Health Care Management**

Svensson, Per-Gunnar. eHealth International, 1:5, September 17, 2002.

This article focusses on consumer informatics, medical and clinical informatics and telemedicine.

<http://www.ehealthinternational.org/content/1/1/5>

### **EHR vs. CPR vs. EMR**

Waegemann , C. Peter. Healthcare Informatics Online, May 2003.

This article examines the major barriers to implementation of electronic health records, as well as defining several terms used to describe patient records in non-paper format.

[http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05\\_03/cover\\_ehr.htm](http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05_03/cover_ehr.htm)

### **Electronic Health Records : An International Perspective**

Cornwall, Amanda. Australia : Health Issues Centre, Inc., 2002.

This article discusses the privacy framework needed for EHRs and the role of Privacy Commissioners. It reviews nationally significant EHR schemes in Canada, England, Germany, France and Ireland and the privacy frameworks they operate within.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hissues/Text/hicornwall4dec2002.doc>

### **The Ethics of Health Sector Databases**

Snaedal, Jon. eHealth International, 1:6, September 17, 2002.

Iceland has a long tradition for the use of databases with health information as in other Western societies and they have not been questioned. The public has been confident that their information is used correctly and has been given no reason to think otherwise.

<http://www.ehealthinternational.org/content/1/1/6>

### **Finding Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials on the Internet: An Exploratory Evaluation of Online Resources**

Till, James E. et al. CMAJ, 168:9, April 29, 2003, pp. 1127-1129.

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/168/9/1127>

### **For Some CIOs, Thin is In**

Schuerenberg, Beckie Kelly. Health Data Management, May 2003.

This article explains the benefits and drawbacks of thin client hardware.

<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/html/current/PastIssueStory.cfm?PostID=14854&PastMonth=May&PastYear=2003>

### **Get the Message?**

Tabar, Pamela. Healthcare Informatics Online, May 2003.

This article examines how the secure messaging market has worked to meet healthcare's specific needs.

[http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05\\_03/tabar.htm](http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05_03/tabar.htm)

### **Indicators of Investments in Health ICTs : Towards a Business Case**

Anderson, C. Canada : EU-Canada Health Telematics Initiative, 2002.

The report summarizes presentations and discussion from a workshop, including: indicators and measures of investment in health ICTs, definitions, telehomecare investments, e-learning and information sharing on current and future initiatives.

<http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/eucan/EU-Canada%20Indicators%20Report%20Final%20with%20rev.doc>

### **Instant Messengers**

Childers, Linda. Nurseweek.com, October 15, 2002.

This article examines an "electronic ICU", which allows physician specialists and critical care nurses to use telemedicine to monitor and treat critical patients in multiple intensive care units.

<http://www.nurseweek.com/news/features/02-10/telemedicine.asp>

### **Le marché nord-américain de la télésanté**

Québec. Ministre des Finances, de l'Économie et de la Recherche. Canada : Québec. Ministre des Finances, de l'Économie et de la Recherche, 2002.

[http://www.mic.gouv.qc.ca/telesante/fr/nord-americain\\_profil.html](http://www.mic.gouv.qc.ca/telesante/fr/nord-americain_profil.html)

### **Progress Report - Moving Ontario's eHealth Vision into Action**

Ontario Hospital eHealth Council. Canada : Ontario Hospital eHealth Council, 2002.

[http://www.oha.com/oha/reports.nsf/\(\\$Att\)/smln5kbtcf/\\$FILE/eHealthProgressReport.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.oha.com/oha/reports.nsf/($Att)/smln5kbtcf/$FILE/eHealthProgressReport.pdf?OpenElement)

### **Telehealth Discussion Paper**

American Academy of Family Physicians. United States : American Academy of Family Physicians, 2003.

This short paper outlines a definition of telehealth, including technologies, applications and reimbursement policies.

<http://www.aafp.org/x17527.xml>

### **Telemedicine Awaits**

Stumpf, Steven H. Healthcare Informatics Online, May 2003.

Despite the demands of HIPAA and the availability of advanced technology, the marriage between telemedicine and reimbursement has yet to occur.

[http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05\\_03/stumpf.htm](http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05_03/stumpf.htm)

### **Telemental Health Initiatives for Children and Youth : Status Report and Recommendations for Future Activities**

Albert Mental Health Board (AMHB). Canada : Albert Mental Health Board (AMHB), 2002.

## **Toward the Transformation of Health Care Delivery in Canada: Information and Communications Technology in the Service of Health Care Innovation**

Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC). Canada : ITAC, 2003.

[http://www.itac.ca/Client/ITAC/ITAC\\_UW\\_MainEngine.nsf/CD0BBBE7B8237E1E85256482005B6998/B41EFB6391B21EEC85256CCA00686C7E?OpenDocument](http://www.itac.ca/Client/ITAC/ITAC_UW_MainEngine.nsf/CD0BBBE7B8237E1E85256482005B6998/B41EFB6391B21EEC85256CCA00686C7E?OpenDocument)

## **Vigilance in the Lab**

Marietti, Charlene. Healthcare Informatics Online, May 2003.

The human factor brings vulnerability to lab operations. Computers are presented as the best method to ensure that people follow safe practices and protocols.

[http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05\\_03/safety.htm](http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05_03/safety.htm)

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## **Funding Opportunities**

Current funding opportunities for health research on the use of information and communications technologies in health, which are open to Canadian researchers. Access all of the [Funding Opportunities](#) listed on our site.

### **Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research**

Forefront Technology Commercialization Program

<http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/tc/>

### **BC Advanced Systems Institute (ASI)**

Advanced Technology Innovation Fund

<http://www.asi.bc.ca/programs/investprog.html>

### **Canada Foundation for Innovation**

New Opportunities Fund

<http://www.innovation.ca/programs/index.cfm?websiteid=57>

### **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**

CIHR/RxD Research Program

[http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/partnerships/rxd/index\\_e.shtml](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/partnerships/rxd/index_e.shtml)

Industry Partnerships Programs

[http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/partnerships/industry\\_e.shtml](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/partnerships/industry_e.shtml)

## **European Union-Canada Health Telematics Initiative**

CORDIS 6th Framework Programme - Future and Emerging  
[http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call\\_details.cfm?CALL\\_ID=55](http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=55)

## **Health Canada**

Primary Health Care Transition Fund  
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/phctf-fassp/english/index.html>

## **Ministère de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie, Québec**

Financial Assistance for Scientific and Technological Cooperation  
[http://www.mrst.gouv.qc.ca/\\_an/programmes/assistance.html](http://www.mrst.gouv.qc.ca/_an/programmes/assistance.html)  
Programme d'appui au financement d'infrastructures  
[http://www.mrst.gouv.qc.ca/\\_fr/programmes/pafi/pafi.htm](http://www.mrst.gouv.qc.ca/_fr/programmes/pafi/pafi.htm)

## **New Brunswick Medical Research Fund**

<http://www.gnb.ca/0391/MedicalResearch-e.asp>

## **Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation**

Capacity Building Program  
<http://www.nshrf.ca/programs/capacity.shtml>

## **Western Economic Diversification Canada**

Loans for Knowledge-based Businesses  
<http://www.deo.gc.ca/eng/finance/programs/xitt.html>  
Business Loans for Knowledge and Growth  
<http://www.deo.gc.ca/eng/finance/programs/xkbi.html>

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## **Initiatives**

Selected initiatives that profile Canadian telehealth, electronic health record, education, privacy and health information infrastructure projects and programs. Access the full descriptions of more than 200 initiatives via the [Canadian eHealth Initiatives Database](#).

**Canadian Virtual Hospice: Knowledge Development & Support in Palliative Care.** Lead Organization : McMaster University, Faculty of Medicine, System-Linked Research Unit.  
[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsi/about\\_apropos/kdec/proj/on\\_virt\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsi/about_apropos/kdec/proj/on_virt_e.html)



**Capital Health Patient Registry.** Lead Organization : Capital Health Authority (Edmonton).  
<http://www.cha.ab.ca/About+Us/Media+Desk/News+Releases/2002+News+Releases+Archive/December+2002/Canada+Health+Infoway.htm>

**Centre for Global eHealth Innovation.** Lead Organization : University Health Network.  
<http://www.uhnres.utoronto.ca/ehealth/>

**CLSC of the Future : Telehealth and Tele-home Care Project.** Lead Organization : Centre local de services communautaires (CLSC) Orléans.  
[http://www.cefrio.qc.ca/english/projets/proj\\_33.cfm](http://www.cefrio.qc.ca/english/projets/proj_33.cfm)

**Computerization of Medical Practices for the Enhancement of Therapeutic Effectiveness: COMPETE II.** Lead Organization : Centre for the Evaluation of Medicines, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.  
<http://www.compete-study.com/indexpage.html>

**Health Infostructure Atlantic (HIA) Project: Telehealth and the Interprovincial Integration of Images and Information (Tele-i4).** Lead Organization : Health Infostructure Atlantic.  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/hia/default.htm>

**Interior Health Tele-Imaging System.** Lead Organization : Interior Health Authority (British Columbia).  
[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm\\_news\\_releases/2002HLTH0034-001020.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2002HLTH0034-001020.pdf)

**Jurisdictional Client Registry - "Best of Breed" Solution.** Lead Organization : Canada Health Infoway Inc.  
<http://www.nlchi.nf.ca/pdf/infoway.pdf>

**MOXXI-II.** Lead Organization : McGill University, Department of Medicine.  
<http://www.moxxi.mcgill.ca/>

**National First Nations Telehealth Research Project.** Lead Organization : Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.  
[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/phcph/telehealth/publications/final\\_report.htm](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/phcph/telehealth/publications/final_report.htm)

**National Initiative for Telehealth Guidelines (NIFTE).** Lead Organization : NIFTE.  
<http://www.nifte.ca/>

**NORrad.** Lead Organization : Timmins and District Hospital.  
<http://www.canhealth.com/sep02.html>

**Pan-Canadian Health Informatics Collaboratory.** Lead Organization : University of Victoria.  
<http://www.health.bcit.ca/hic/index.html>

**Privacy Toolkit.** Lead Organization : Nova Scotia. Department of Health.  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/release.asp?id=20030213003>

**Provider Registry - System Integration and Implementation Toolkit.** Lead Organization :  
Saskatchewan Health.  
<http://www.wideopenfuture.ca/news-2002-12-19d.html>

**Public Health Information System (i-PHIS).** Lead Organization : Canadian Integrated Public  
Health Surveillance Collaborative.  
<http://www.ciph.s.ca/e/i-phs.shtml>

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## Periodicals

The latest issues of electronic journals which are available for free on the Internet, and which are published by authoritative sources. Access the full list of [Electronic Periodicals](#).

**BMJ.** Latest Issue : 326:7397, May 10, 2003.  
<http://bmj.com/content/vol326/issue7397/?etoc>

**BMJ Medical Informatics : Information in Practice.** Latest Issue : May 15, 2003.  
[http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/information\\_in\\_practice](http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/information_in_practice)

**BMJ Medical Informatics : Other Medical Informatics.** Latest Issue : May 15, 2003.  
[http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/other\\_medical\\_informatics%3Aother](http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/other_medical_informatics%3Aother)

**BMJ Medical Informatics : World Wide Web.** Latest Issue : April 26, 2003.  
<http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/WWW>

**Canadian Healthcare Technology.** Latest Issue : May 2003.  
<http://www.canhealth.com/current%20issue.html>

**Canadian Medical Association Journal (eCMAJ).** Latest Issue : 168:10, May 13, 2003.  
<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/vol168/issue10/index.shtml?etoc>

**CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing.** Latest Issue : 21:2. March-April 2003.  
[http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/journalissue.asp?Journal\\_ID=54020&Issue\\_ID=406594](http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/journalissue.asp?Journal_ID=54020&Issue_ID=406594)

**Connection.** Latest Issue : #12, Spring 2003.  
[http://www.ccohta.ca/publications/pdf/connection12\\_e.pdf](http://www.ccohta.ca/publications/pdf/connection12_e.pdf)

**COR e-Health Trend Watch.** Latest Issue : #100, May 8, 2003.  
<http://www.corhealth.com/TrendWatch.asp>

**E-CareManagement News.** Latest Issue : April 16, 2003.  
[http://www.bhtinfo.com/04\\_16\\_03.htm](http://www.bhtinfo.com/04_16_03.htm)

**eHealth Update.** Latest Issue : March-April 2003.  
[http://206.222.94.60/QuickPlace/ehealth/Main.nsf/h\\_Toc/DB0F4CD4BFDA28BE85256B90005551C1/?OpenDocument](http://206.222.94.60/QuickPlace/ehealth/Main.nsf/h_Toc/DB0F4CD4BFDA28BE85256B90005551C1/?OpenDocument)

**Federal Telemedicine Update.** Latest Issue : May 12, 2003.  
<http://www.federaltelemedicine.com/n051203.htm>

**Health Affairs.** Latest Issue : 22:3, May-June 2003.  
<http://www.healthaffairs.org/>

**Health Data Management.** Latest Issue : May 2003.  
<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/html/current/index.cfm>

**Health ICT News.** Latest Issue : February 13, 2003.  
[http://www.chik.com.au/newsletter/view\\_news.php?id=175&PHPSESSID=1575c3e5e588d269e8016bf623fdd736](http://www.chik.com.au/newsletter/view_news.php?id=175&PHPSESSID=1575c3e5e588d269e8016bf623fdd736)

**Health Informatics Europe.** Latest Issue : April 30, 2003.  
<http://www.hi-europe.info/new.htm>

**Healthcare Informatics Online.** Latest Issue : May 2003.  
[http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05\\_03/may.htm](http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/05_03/may.htm)

**The Informatics Review.** Latest Issue : 6:10, May 15, 2003.  
<http://www.informatics-review.com>

**Inside Healthcare Computing.** Latest Issue : 13:14, May 19, 2003.  
<http://www.insidehealth.com/headlines.current.html>

**Interface.** Latest Issue : 5:2, April 2003.  
<http://www.coachorg.com/gateway/interface/23-vol5issue2/index.htm>

**JAMA.** Latest Issue : 289:18, May 14, 2003.  
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/vol289/issue18/index.dtl?etoc>

**Journal of AHIMA.** Latest Issue : May 2, 2003.  
[http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/public/documents/web\\_assets/bok1\\_016845.hcst](http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/public/documents/web_assets/bok1_016845.hcst)

**Journal of Medical Internet Research.** Latest Issue : 5:1, January-March 2003.  
<http://www.jmir.org/2003/1/index.htm>

**MedScape TechMed.** Latest Issue : May 2003.  
<http://www.medscape.com/techmedicinehome>

**Military Medical Technology Online.** Latest Issue : 7:3, April 2003.  
<http://www.mmt-kmi.com/>

**Telehealth Focus.** Latest Issue : #8, March 2003.  
[http://www.telehealth.health.wa.gov.au/documents/1174-newsletter\\_5.pdf](http://www.telehealth.health.wa.gov.au/documents/1174-newsletter_5.pdf)

**Virtual Medical Worlds Monthly.** Latest Issue : #5, May 2003.  
<http://www.hoise.com/vmw/03/articles/contentsvmw200305.html>

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## Success Stories

### Raising awareness about cervical cancer screening: Teleoncology

Dr. Réjean Savoie was recently disturbed to discover a 17-year-old patient with advanced cervical cancer. "We shouldn't be seeing this in 2002," he says.

And yet, the statistics indicate that Dr. Savoie's young patient is among the majority of New Brunswick women who do not have regular Pap tests to screen for what is the world's second most common form of cancer.

Quick Facts

Only 39 percent of women in New Brunswick have Pap tests, and in some parts of the province the number is as low as one in five. Statistics Canada reports that only two-thirds of women in New Brunswick have had a Pap test in the past several years.

"These are disturbing statistics," says Dr. Savoie, who is a gyn-oncologist and medical director for the Teleoncology project, led by the Beauséjour Regional Health Authority, the largest provider of Francophone health care services in Atlantic Canada. Other partners include the New Brunswick Department of Health and Welfare, the Université de Moncton, three other regional health authorities (Campbellton, Bathurst, and Miramichi) and the Big Cove Health Centre.

These percentages are upsetting, not only because they are so low, but because cervical cancer is one of the forms of the disease that can be arrested successfully if diagnosed early. Regular Pap tests are the key.

According to Teleoncology project manager Suzanne Robichaud, focus groups yielded a number of reasons why New Brunswickers avoid systematic screening: they do not have a family doctor or would prefer the tests are performed by a female doctor, they are shy, tests are not offered on a regular basis, and many lack knowledge about the risks of cervical cancer.

Dr. Savoie hopes that the new, multi-faceted project will help reverse the trend in his province by introducing an efficient and comprehensive screening system. The project's goals include increasing awareness and Pap test participation, improving follow-up with those tested, eliminating unnecessary screening, and ultimately, reducing the incidence of cervical cancer and deaths from the disease.



Among the components the project introduces are: a health promotion campaign (including a video in the Mi'kmaq language); screening clinics in Miramichi, Bathurst, Campbellton and Beauséjour; training for health care professionals; and a central database with test results of women who have been screened.

Creation of this database will not only lead to an automatic call-back system, it will help track trends throughout the province so future efforts can be targeted to areas where women are most at risk.

In addition, the project will allow gyn-oncologists and gynecologists to consult remotely about the treatment of cervical cancer patients, using secure electronic files that include multi-media capabilities.

<p><b>Challenge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the incidence of cervical cancer</li> </ul> <p><b>Solution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce a health promotion program</li> <li>Implement a comprehensive screening system</li> <li>A central database of test results that can be accessed remotely</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness and PAP test participation</li> <li>The use of a central database will improve follow-ups for women who are at most risk</li> </ul>
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For physicians like Dr. Savoie, the hope is that fewer New Brunswick women will be afflicted with this preventable cancer.

*This project is one of 29 funded through the Canada Health Infrastructure Partnerships Program, managed by the Office of Health and the Information Highway.*

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## About

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