



# eHealth InfoSource cybersanté



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## Announcements

### Telehealth 2003 - CST-SCT Annual Conference 2003

The Office of Health and the Information Highway (OHIH) will be at the [Canadian Society of Telehealth 2003 conference](#) being held October 5-7 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Please drop by our booth 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.

The [report of the 2002 conference](#) is available and offers an opportunity to review last year's conference.

## Two new OHIH reports

OHIH has recently published the following two reports.

### **Information and Communications Technologies in the Canadian Health System: An Analysis of Federally-Funded ICT-Related Projects**

Assadi, Bahman. Ottawa: Office of Health and the Information Highway, Health Canada, June 2003.

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsi/pubs/2003\\_analproj/rpt\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsi/pubs/2003_analproj/rpt_e.html)

This study, which is the first phase of a multi-phased attempt to provide a pan-Canadian picture of the use of ICTs in the health sector, compiles some basic information and conducts a preliminary analysis of some of the major federally-funded eHealth projects, programs and initiatives.

### **Personal Information Privacy Assessment of CHIPP Projects**

Prepared by PRIVA-C™. Ottawa: Office of Health and the Information Highway, Health Canada, May 2003.

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsi/pubs/2003\\_priv\\_chippics/rpt\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsi/pubs/2003_priv_chippics/rpt_e.html)

A report of the results of individual high-level privacy assessments performed on the twenty-nine Canadian Health Infostructure Partnership Program (CHIPP) projects, including recommendations in five operational privacy areas (patients, people, process, security, and information management).

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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).

### **September 2003**

September 7-9, 2003. **Health Statistics Data Users Conference 2003.** (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.) <http://www.statcan.ca/english/conferences/health2003/index.htm>

September 10-12, 2003. **MUSE Conference (Medical Users Software Exchange) - Region 8.** (Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada.)

<http://www.museweb.org/conferences/region8.htm>

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

September 17-19, 2003. **MUSE Conference (Medical Users Software Exchange) - Region 7.** (Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada.)  
<http://www.museweb.org/conferences/region7.htm>

September 18-19, 2003. **Fourth Symposium on Telehealth : Virtual Realities of Telehealth.** (Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.)  
<http://www.prosante.com/En/Event/ST042003/Present04STS.html>

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 19-23, 2003. **Future of Rural Peoples: Rural Economy, Healthy People, Environment, Rural Communities -- Fifth International Symposium.** (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.) <http://iareh.usask.ca/symposium2003/index.php>

October 21-22, 2003. **Information Management and Technology for Healthcare : Determining the ROI of your EHR while Complying with Privacy Laws.** (Toronto, Ontario, Canada.) <http://www.healthandpharma.com/cgi-bin/templates/105966509913571166992100002/genevent.html?topic=176&event=3685>

October 21-22, 2003. **Third Annual National Forum Managing Privacy and Security of Health Information.** (Toronto, Ontario, Canada.)  
<http://www.canadianinstitute.com/contentframes.cfm?ID=2250>

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>

October 27-28, 2003. **Les renseignements personnels dans le domaine de la santé.** (Montreal, Québec, Canada.)  
[http://www.insightinfo.com/conferences/brochures/brochure.cfm?product\\_code=HCC03458](http://www.insightinfo.com/conferences/brochures/brochure.cfm?product_code=HCC03458)

## November 2003

November 16-18, 2003. **Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention (MICCAI) 2003 : The Sixth Annual International Conference.** (Montreal, Québec, Canada.) <http://www.miccai2003.org/>

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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](#).

### Architecture for National eHealth Systems : A German Example

Pluta, Ulrich. Belgium : Directorate General Information Society, European Commission, 2003.

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/ehealth/conference/2003/doc/pluta\\_oracle.ppt](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/ehealth/conference/2003/doc/pluta_oracle.ppt)

### Collaborative e-Learning Using Streaming Video and Asynchronous Discussion Boards to Teach the Cognitive Foundation of Medical Interviewing : A Case Study

Wiecha, John M. et al. Journal of Medical Internet Research, v5 n2:e13, June 2003.

<http://www.jmir.org/2003/2/e13/index.htm>

### Critical Intervention

Reynolds, Phil. Health Management Technology, July 2003.

The article outlines how decision support software has been implemented and works to help recommend antibiotic treatment for patients.

<http://www.healthmgtech.com/archives/h0703critical.htm>

### Development and Evaluation of the Virtual Pathology Slide : A New Tool in Telepathology

Costello, Sean S.P. et al. Journal of Medical Internet Research, v5 n2:e11, June 2003.

<http://www.jmir.org/2003/2/e11/index.htm>

### The Electronic Patient Record in Primary Care - Regression or Progression? A Cross Sectional Study

Hippisley-Cox, Julia et al. BMJ, v326 n7404, June 28, 2003, p1439-1443.

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/326/7404/1439>

### **Electronic Technology : A Spark to Revitalize Primary Care?**

Bodenheimer, Thomas and Kevin Grumbach. JAMA, v290 n2, July 9, 2003, p259-264.  
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/290/2/259>

### **Environmental Scan of Organizational, Technology, Clinical and Human Resource Issues : Executive Summary**

The NIFTE Research Consortium. Canada : National Initiative for Telehealth (NIFTE) Guidelines, 2003.

This report presents the results of an Environmental Scan that sought to identify telehealth-specific policies, procedures, guidelines or standards that were in current use or in development, and to identify gaps. A literature review, a stakeholder survey and key informant interviews were used to conduct the Environmental Scan with a focus on telehealth services in Canada.

<http://www.nifte.ca/pdfs/PDFExecutiveSummaryEnvironmentalScanMay72003.pdf>

### **Federal Health Information Policy : A Case Of Arrested Development**

Goldsmith, Jeff et al. Health Affairs, v22 n4, July/August 2003.

The authors argue that federal government action in the area of standardization of clinical data systems is required to assure the interoperability of electronic health records. They also call for federal subsidies to encourage rapid adoption of these technologies by health care providers.

<http://www.healthaffairs.org/freecontent/v22n4/s13.htm>

### **Le fer de lance d'un réseau régional harmonisé et communicant**

Ringuette, Mélanie. Le Réseau Informatique, v15 n1, Spring-Summer 2003.

<http://www.sogique.qc.ca/magazine/siril.htm>

### **Fifth Annual Conference of the Canadian Society of Telehealth - e-HealthCare : What Constitutes Return on Investment?**

Canadian Society of Telehealth (CST). Canada : Health Telematics Unit, University of Calgary, 2003.

A report of the annual conference of the Canadian Society of Telehealth held in October 2002 including an overview of the conference, keynote presentations, panel discussions and concurrent presentations. This report offers an opportunity to review last year's conference before attending the upcoming 2003 event in October.

<http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/CST2002Report-Final.pdf>

### **Home Telehealth - A Value Based Analysis for Alberta - Discussion Document**

Scott, R.E. et al. Canada : Health Telematics Unit, University of Calgary, 2003.

<http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/02-01-Alberta%20Home%20Telehealth%20Analysis-HTUSRF.pdf>

## **Information and Communications Technologies in the Canadian Health System: An Analysis of Federally-Funded ICT-Related Projects**

Assadi, Bahman. Canada : Office of Health and the Information Highway, Health Canada, 2003.

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bis/pubs/2003\\_analproj/rpt\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bis/pubs/2003_analproj/rpt_e.html)

## **Internet Health Resources**

Fox, Suzannah and Deborah Fallows. United States : Pew Internet & American Life Project, 2003.

[http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/pdfs/PIP\\_Health\\_Report\\_July\\_2003.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/pdfs/PIP_Health_Report_July_2003.pdf)

## **A Mixed Learning Technology Approach for Continuing Medical Education**

Curran, Vernon et al. Medical Education Online, v8 n5, 2003.

<http://www.med-ed-online.org/t0000036.htm>

## **Online Empathy for Mood Disorders**

Lamberg, Lynne. JAMA, v289 n23, June 18, 2003, p3073-3077.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/289/23/3073>

## **Un outil clé pour la recherche clinique au Québec ... et partout ailleurs!**

Ringuette, Mélanie. Le Réseau Informatique, v15 n1, Spring-Summer 2003.

<http://www.sogique.qc.ca/magazine/gereq.htm>

## **Personal Information Privacy Assessment of CHIPP Projects**

PRIVA-C<sup>(TM)</sup>. Canada : Office of Health and the Information Highway, Health Canada, 2003.

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bis/pubs/2003\\_priv\\_chippics/rpt\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bis/pubs/2003_priv_chippics/rpt_e.html)

## **Les plaintes, pour un réseau sociosanitaire en meilleure santé**

Ringuette, Mélanie. Le Réseau Informatique, v15 n1, Spring-Summer 2003.

<http://www.sogique.qc.ca/magazine/entrevue.htm>

## **SARS and Population Health Technology**

Eysenbach, Gunther. Journal of Medical Internet Research, v5 n2:e14, June 2003.

<http://www.jmir.org/2003/2/e14/index.htm>

## **Le service national de visioconférence a passé le test!**

Beaulieu, Ginette. Le Réseau Informatique, v15 n1, Spring-Summer 2003.

<http://www.sogique.qc.ca/magazine/visio.htm>

## **Le SIC DI : Un appui de taille pour les intervenants en déficience intellectuelle**

Ringuette, Mélanie. Le Réseau Informatique, v15 n1, Spring-Summer 2003.

The intellectual disability client information system (SIC DI) supports the efforts of workers, specialists and managers working in this area.

<http://www.sogique.qc.ca/magazine/sicdi.htm>

## **Significant Progress on Rollout of Integrated Clinical System**

Saskatchewan Health Information Network, Summer 2003, p1, 3.

<http://www.shin.sk.ca/newsletters/downloads/June2003.pdf>

## **Socio-Economic Impact of Telehealth: Evidence Now for Health Care in the Future - Volume 1 : State of the Science Report**

University of Calgary. Health Telematics Unit. Canada : Health Telematics Unit, University of Calgary, 2003.

<http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/SOS%20Final%20Report.pdf>

## **Socio-Economic Impact of Telehealth: Evidence Now for Health Care in the Future - Volume 2 : Policy Report**

University of Calgary. Health Telematics Unit. Canada : Health Telematics Unit, University of Calgary, 2003.

<http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Policy%20Final%20Report.pdf>

## **Socio-Economic Impact of Telehealth: Evidence Now for Health Care in the Future - Volume 3 : Appendices**

University of Calgary. Health Telematics Unit. Canada : Health Telematics Unit, University of Calgary, 2003.

[http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/AHFMR\\_State\\_of\\_the\\_Science\\_Review.htm](http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/AHFMR_State_of_the_Science_Review.htm)

## **Tech versus Touch : Narrowing the Great Divide**

Erdley, W.S. et al. Online Journal of Nursing Informatics, v7 n2, Summer 2003.

This paper describes a case study about the creation and use of a prenatal clinical-information system. The authors identify the different perspectives of the end user (clinical staff) and of the developer (technical staff) and outline the potential conflict areas in the development process and offer advice based on lessons learned.

[http://www.eaa-knowledge.com/ojni/ni/7\\_2/sackett.htm](http://www.eaa-knowledge.com/ojni/ni/7_2/sackett.htm)

## **Telehealth Site Coordinators Handbook**

Centre for Telehealth @ Mheccu. Canada : Centre for Telehealth @ Mheccu, 2003.

Note: Only the introduction (section 1) is available free on the Internet.

[http://www.mheccu.ubc.ca/publications/ctm/CTM\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.mheccu.ubc.ca/publications/ctm/CTM_Handbook.pdf)

## **Teleradiology Toolkit**

TIE Europe. United Kingdom : TIE Europe, 2003.

<http://tie.telemed.org/europe/specialty/toolkit.asp?kit=1&name=Teleradiology>

## **Use of the World Wide Web to Implement Clinical Practice Guidelines : A Feasibility Study**

Jeannot, Jean-Gabriel et al. Journal of Medical Internet Research, v5 n2:e12, June 2003.

<http://www.jmir.org/2003/2/e12/index.htm>

## **The Value of Computerized Provider Order Entry in Ambulatory Settings - Executive Preview**

Johnston, Douglas et al. United States : Center for Information Technology Leadership, 2002.

[http://citl.org/research/ACPOE\\_Executive\\_Preview.pdf](http://citl.org/research/ACPOE_Executive_Preview.pdf)

## **Virtual Outreach : Economic Evaluation of Joint Teleconsultations for Patients Referred by their General Practitioner for a Specialist Opinion**

Jacklin, P.B. et al. BMJ, v327 n7406, July 12,2003, p84-91.

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/327/7406/84>

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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.

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

New Emerging Team (NET) Grants

[http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/funding/opportunities/institutes/2003/rfa\\_5\\_rural\\_health\\_net\\_e.shtml](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/funding/opportunities/institutes/2003/rfa_5_rural_health_net_e.shtml)

Compelling Values: Privacy, Access to Data and Health Research

[http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/funding/opportunities/institutes/2003/rfa\\_access\\_to\\_data\\_e.shtml](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/funding/opportunities/institutes/2003/rfa_access_to_data_e.shtml)

### **Government of Ontario**

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Primary Health Care Transition Fund

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/phctf/phctf\\_app\\_061803\\_capital.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/phctf/phctf_app_061803_capital.pdf)



## **Government of Prince Edward Island**

Health Research Program

[http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/hss\\_hrp\\_glines.pdf](http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/hss_hrp_glines.pdf)

## **Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research**

Research Unit Infrastructure

<http://www.msfhr.org/sub-funding-research.htm>

## **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)**

Collaborative Health Research Projects (CHRP)

[http://www.nserc.ca/professors\\_e.asp?nav=profnav&lbi=a3](http://www.nserc.ca/professors_e.asp?nav=profnav&lbi=a3)

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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](#).

**Alberta First Nations TeleHealth Program (AFNTP).** Lead Organization : Canada. Health Canada. First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/phcph/telehealth/alberta\\_telehealth.htm](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/phcph/telehealth/alberta_telehealth.htm)

**Assessing the Informatics Education Needs of Canadian Nurses - Educational Institution Component.** Lead Organization : Canadian Nursing Informatics Association

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bis/about\\_apropos/kdec/proj/on\\_nurseinfirmier\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bis/about_apropos/kdec/proj/on_nurseinfirmier_e.html)

**Best Evidence Program (Mheccu).** Lead Organization : Centre for Telehealth @ Mheccu (CT@M), University of British Columbia

<http://www.mheccu.ubc.ca/telehealth/development.cfm>

**CancerCare Manitoba: Community Oncology Team.** Lead Organization : CancerCare Manitoba

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2003/04/2003-04-30-02.html>

**Churchill Health Centre Telehealth Facility.** Lead Organization : Churchill RHA Inc.

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2003/04/2003-04-30-02.html>

**Comprehensive Assessment, Referral and Entry System (C.A.R.E.S.).** Lead Organization : NOR-MAN Regional Health Authority (Manitoba)  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2003/04/2003-04-30-02.html>

**ePhysician Project (Ontario).** Lead Organization : Ontario Family Health Network (OFHN)  
[http://www.ontariofamilyhealthnetwork.gov.on.ca/english/it\\_epp.html](http://www.ontariofamilyhealthnetwork.gov.on.ca/english/it_epp.html)

**Health Links Call Centre (Manitoba).** Lead Organization : Manitoba Health  
[http://www.misericordia.mb.ca/health\\_inks.html](http://www.misericordia.mb.ca/health_inks.html)

**Physician Office System Program (POSP).** Lead Organization : Alberta Wellnet  
<http://www.albertawellnet.org/projects/pos.html>

**Using Internet Video Technology to Improve Health Care Delivery to the Deaf and Non-Verbal Population in Canada.** Lead Organization : University of New Brunswick, Institute of Biomedical Engineering  
<http://www.unb.ca/biomed/rvi/>

**Western EHR Regional Collaborative (WERC).** Lead Organization : Calgary Health Region  
<http://www.werc-canada.org/>

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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](#).

**Advance for Imaging and Oncology Administrators Online.** Latest Issue : v3 n15, July 24, 2003.  
<http://www.advanceforioa.com/Main.aspx>

**Assist News and Views.** Latest Issue : July 2003.  
[http://www.assist.org.uk/newsletter/News%20%20Views%20July%202003\\_final.pdf](http://www.assist.org.uk/newsletter/News%20%20Views%20July%202003_final.pdf)

**ATSP Online.** Latest Issue : August 5, 2003.  
<http://www.atsp.org>

**BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making.** Latest Issue : v3 n9, July 8, 2003.  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6947>

**BMJ.** Latest Issue : v327 n7410, August 9, 2003.  
<http://bmj.com/content/vol327/issue7410/>

**BMJ Medical Informatics : Information in Practice.** Latest Issue : July 31, 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 : August 9, 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 : August 9, 2003.  
<http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/WWW>

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

**Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine.** Latest Issue : v8 n3, Summer 2003.  
<http://www.cma.ca/cma/common/displayPage.do?pagelD=/staticContent/HTML/N0/I2/cjrm/vol-8/issue-3/issue-3.htm>

**Canadian Medical Association Journal (eCMAJ).** Latest Issue : v169 n3, August 5, 2003.  
<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/vol169/issue3/>

**The CHRA Source.** Latest Issue : v4 n2, Spring 2003.  
[http://www.chra.ca/download\\_doc/Sprin2003Issue.pdf](http://www.chra.ca/download_doc/Sprin2003Issue.pdf)

**CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing.** Latest Issue : v21 n4, July/August 2003.  
[http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/journalissue.asp?Journal\\_ID=54020&Issue\\_ID=417746](http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/journalissue.asp?Journal_ID=54020&Issue_ID=417746)

**Connection.** Latest Issue : n13, Summer 2003.  
[http://www.ccohta.ca/publications/pdf/connection13\\_e.pdf](http://www.ccohta.ca/publications/pdf/connection13_e.pdf)

**COR e-Health Trend Watch.** Latest Issue : n113, August 7, 2003.  
<http://www.corhealth.com/TrendWatch.asp>

**Drug Information Journal.** Latest Issue : v37 n2, April-June 2003.  
[http://www.diahome.org/docs/Journal/DIAJournal.cfm?PageID=dij37\\_2](http://www.diahome.org/docs/Journal/DIAJournal.cfm?PageID=dij37_2)

**The E-Backbone.** Latest Issue : v3 n2, July 2003.

[http://www.nlchi.nf.ca/pdf/backbone\\_july03.pdf](http://www.nlchi.nf.ca/pdf/backbone_july03.pdf)

**E-CareManagement News.** Latest Issue : June 30, 2003.

[http://www.bhtinfo.com/06\\_30\\_03.htm](http://www.bhtinfo.com/06_30_03.htm)

**eHealth International.** Latest Issue : July 21, 2003.

<http://www.ehealthinternational.org/index7.php?Itemid=1>

**eHealth Update.** Latest Issue : May-June 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 : July 28, 2003.

<http://www.federaltelemedicine.com/n072803.htm>

**Future Health Bulletin.** Latest Issue : n18, May 2003.

<http://www.headstar.com/futurehealth/issues/2003/may2003.html>

**Health Affairs.** Latest Issue : v22 n4, July/August 2003.

<http://www.healthaffairs.org/>

**Health Data Management.** Latest Issue : August 2003.

<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/html/current/index.cfm>

**Health e-News.** Latest Issue : n5, June 2003.

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/49ba80c00757b8804c256673001d47d0/a433fe6c679282cbcc256d4400170317?OpenDocument>

**Health ICT Headlines.** Latest Issue : July 3, 2003.

[http://www.chik.com.au/newsletter/view\\_news.php?id=236](http://www.chik.com.au/newsletter/view_news.php?id=236)

**Health ICT News.** Latest Issue : May 22, 2003.

[http://www.chik.com.au/newsletter/view\\_news.php?id=222](http://www.chik.com.au/newsletter/view_news.php?id=222)

**Health Informatics Europe.** Latest Issue : July 15, 2003.

<http://www.hi-europe.info/new.htm>

**Health Informatics Zone.** Latest Issue : July 28, 2003.

[http://www.nhsia.nhs.uk/def/home\\_info.asp](http://www.nhsia.nhs.uk/def/home_info.asp)

**Health Management Technology.** Latest Issue : August 2003.

<http://www.healthmgttech.com/>

**Healthcare Informatics Online.** Latest Issue : August 2003.

[http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/08\\_03/aug.htm](http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2003/08_03/aug.htm)

**HL7 Canada Bulletin.** Latest Issue : n34, July 2003.

[http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw\\_page=news\\_hl7\\_current\\_e](http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=news_hl7_current_e)

**i-Health Media Watch.** Latest Issue : July 30, 2003.

<http://www.hinz.org.nz/ihealth/Media-Watch.htm>

**The Informatics Review.** Latest Issue : v6 n15, August 1, 2003.

<http://www.informatics-review.com/>

**Inside Healthcare Computing.** Latest Issue : v13 n19, July 28, 2003.

<http://www.insidehealth.com/current.issue.html>

**JAMA.** Latest Issue : v290 n5, August 6, 2003.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/current.dtl>

**Journal of AHIMA Public Article Archive.** Latest Issue : July 2, 2003.

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## Success Stories

### ***Montreal shows MOXXI*** **Researchers find better ways to prescribe medications**

As the consultation draws to a close, the family doctor whips out a pocket-sized computer and begins to tap on the touch-sensitive screen. But this Montreal physician is not scheduling a meeting or checking her e-mail; she's helping her patient get the best possible pharmaceutical therapy.

The colourful little device is part of an "integrated electronic drug management and prescription system" being developed in an innovative research project called MOXXI. The goal, explains project manager Mélodie Faucher, is to make the prescribing, dispensing and use of medications safer and more effective. "At the end of the day, we're after better health outcomes for patients."

MOXXI, which stands for Medical Office of the 21st century, has been operating on the city's West Island since December 2002 with a \$2.3-million grant under the Canada Health Infostructure Partnerships Program.

Drug interactions and the inappropriate use of medications take a huge human and economic toll. Adverse drug reactions are believed to cause up to 27 percent of hospitalizations in North America. "There is also the problem caused by illegible prescriptions," Faucher adds, noting some patients may be dispensed incorrect drugs or dosages.

To address these problems, MOXXI, under the direction of chief investigator Dr. Robyn Tamblyn, is equipping up to 40 primary care physicians with "personal digital assistants." Known as iPAQs, these handheld computers are linked to several dozen community-based pharmacies over a secure wireless network housed at the McGill University Health Centre.



The devices, loaded with software created by MOXXI in consultation with doctors and pharmacists, display constantly updated details on drugs - their uses, interactions and costs. The iPAQs also display the medical histories of patients who have consented to participate in the project, including visits to emergency rooms, hospitalizations, medical services and all medications, no matter who prescribed them.

By combining information on the patient's medical history and potential drug effects, there's less chance a new medication will react badly with other drugs the patient is taking, Faucher says.

The doctor can type a prescription right onto the iPAQ. The device sounds an alert if there's a chance the selected drug may cause a dangerous reaction in the patient.

The patient gets a paper copy of the prescription while an electronic version is sent to a pharmacy. This eliminates the problem of illegible prescriptions. With the details stored on the pharmacy's computer, it is also easier to change, renew or stop medications.



Faucher says the doctors participating MOXXI are pleased with the system's informative and user-friendly features. "We want them to use it and we want other physicians eventually to use it too."

There are also impressive benefits for patients, Faucher says, because the best available information on medications is integrated with more complete patient histories.

But MOXXI is, first and foremost, a research project. The 12 main investigators, including university researchers and clinicians, want to make sure that the apparent benefits are actually backed by measurable results - from fewer hospitalizations to better patient health.

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## About

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