

xwave and Healthcare 3.0

Taking Canadian healthcare to the next level



Nadeem Ahmed,
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While the media focuses on the United States' healthcare debate, Canada is quietly in the midst of an eHealth transformation that is seeing patient data collected and shared through interoperable electronic health records (iEHRs). Comprising components such as integrated registries, viewers, data repositories and imaging systems, iEHRs help physicians improve clinical outcomes and lower costs.

They also improve management of chronic disease. With diabetic patients,



Healthcare 1.0 (pre- 2004)

Focus: manage episodic health

Solutions:

- Departmental Hospital Information Systems (HIS)
- Physician scheduling and billing systems
- Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS)

Healthcare 2.0 (2004 to 2008)

Focus: manage patient health

Solutions:

- Clinical viewers, provincial registries, provincial repositories,
- Health Integration Access Layer (HIAL, CAIS)
- Regional Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS)

Healthcare 3.0 (2009 to 2012)

Focus: manage population health

Solutions:

- Individual health record
- Preventive care
- Chronic disease management
- ASP-based EMR systems

doctors can now answer important questions such as: **How many patients have had a blood test or eye exam in the past year? How many are enrolled in a preventive care program? How many are adhering to it?**

These questions couldn't have been answered accurately in the pre-iEHR world," says Nadeem Ahmed, Managing Director of Healthcare at xwave. "This information was trapped in paper folders and was difficult to aggregate and analyze."

These enabling iEHR capabilities, and their evolving connectivity to physician EMRs, are the result of large-scale, province-wide initiatives encompassing numerous stakeholders and multiple points of care, including physicians, labs, pharmacies, hospitals and community care centres.

"xwave is successfully turning these disparate components into cohesive solutions," says Ahmed. "As one of Canada's leading iEHR integrators, we are involved in six of the eight iEHR implementations currently underway in Canada. Rather than focus on particular products, xwave integrates them to improve workflows and lower costs."

Ahmed adds that ultimately, health IT systems must create value, whereby increased eHealth spending results in better clinical outcomes. "We're beginning to see this correlation, and it's one that can make Canada a global healthcare leader."

