FACT SHEET (Provincial):

electronic Child Health Network

**Intended Audience (Hospital, Primary and Community-based Care)**

Clinicians (such as physicians, nurse practitioners and pharmacists); and other medical professionals.

**Purpose**

The **electronic Child Health Network** (eCHN) is Canada’s first province-wide integrated electronic health record. It is a secure electronic network that enables authorized care providers across Ontario to access health information about paediatric patients instantly, from many different sources.

eCHN is operated as a non-profit, government-funded institution. It collects the data resulting from patients’ interactions with the health care system and consolidates them into the form of a single medical WebChart. eCHN provides a coherent, accurate and up-to-date patient record that is available wherever and whenever needed.

**Benefits**

The **electronic Child Health Network**:

- **Provides** health care providers with rapid access to up-to-date and accurate patient data originating from many different clinical systems located around the province;
- **Allows** health care providers to improve the continuity and coordination of patient care through more timely and informed diagnosis and treatment decisions based on care provided by multiple health institutions and practitioners within a secure “circle of care”;
- **Encourages** health care providers to deliver a more patient-centered style of care and focus more of their time and communications with patients and parents on patient care issues;
- **Helps** patients, most notably, chronic and complex care patients, to receive follow-up care as close to home as possible, thereby reducing the need for travel; and
- **Reduces** wait times for diagnosis and test results, the likelihood of medical errors and the need to collect patient medical history upon each visit.

Overall, the **electronic Child Health Network** enables health care professionals to provide a higher quality of patient care and a more time- and cost-efficient system of health care delivery.
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Progress to Date

The Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids) partnered with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to create the electronic Child Health Network, which went live in 2000 with five member sites and a handful of physicians’ offices. Over subsequent years, eCHN has expanded its reach beyond the Greater Toronto Area to include larger paediatric care sites in Hamilton, Kingston, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, the Niagara region, Ottawa, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, as well as many other community-based and teaching facilities from around the province. In 2009, eCHN celebrated its 10th Anniversary as Canada’s first province-wide integrated electronic health record, and the number of paediatric patients in the system reached a million-and-a-half. Today, that number is over 2.3 million and is being used by clinicians who are affiliated with most hospitals, clinics, CCACs, Children’s Treatment Centres and thousands of physicians’ offices throughout Ontario.

Next Steps

The eCHN team continues to expand the paediatric health record in Ontario, with new data and new patients being added every day. More and more physicians are continuing to gain access from their offices, and hospitals whose data are not yet integrated into eCHN’s provincial record are requesting inclusion. There are also exciting new initiatives underway. Clinical specialists in oncology, endocrinology and cardiac care are asking eCHN to expand its WebChart to include the highly specialized data they require. eCHN is a flexible, open, scaleable system designed to be interoperable with other provincial services, as they become available. Furthermore, eCHN has an even more ambitious vision for its future, that its achievement will support and advance the development of a universal health record for the province.

Contact Information

For additional information, please contact:

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This Fact Sheet has been produced in collaboration with the electronic Child Health Network.