Guiding principles for the optimal use of data analytics by physicians at the point of care

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TOPICS
Health information and e-health

CMA POLICY

Guiding Principles for the Optimal Use of Data Analytics by Physicians at the Point of Care

Executive Summary

Electronic records are being used more widely in modern-day healthcare. A majority of physicians in Canada have implementated electronic medical records (EMR) for their practice. In order to fully utilize the potential of EMR and other electronic information systems, it is necessary to consider the best ways to incorporate this information into clinical decision making. The development of data analytics has the potential to enhance the clinician’s ability to extract and interpret useful information, which provides opportunities to improve patient care quality.

The physician's role may expand to the point of integrating clinical data in an EMR into decisions with other considerations, diagnostic and therapeutic. The physician must ensure that the data in the electronic medical record is useful for clinical decision making. Physicians should be aware of the data analytics tools available and how they can be used to improve patient care. These tools can be used to identify potential areas for improvement, as well as to enhance patient care. However, the use of data analytics must be done in a manner that respects patient confidentiality and privacy laws.

Optimal use of data analytics is having the right balance between managing the information available and the clinical decision making. Data analytics can be a tool for the physician to identify patterns and trends, which can be used to improve patient care. However, physicians must be aware of the limitations of data analytics and how they can be used in a responsible manner.

Key points to consider:

1. The data used should be relevant and specific to the patient's condition.
2. The data should be collected in a way that respects patient confidentiality and privacy laws.
3. The data should be analyzed in a responsible and transparent manner.
4. The results of the analysis should be communicated to the patient in a clear and understandable way.
5. The data should be updated regularly and kept up to date.

CMA POLICY - Canadian Medical Association

p. 1
Principles concerning physician information
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TOPICS
Health information and e-health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

[Image of CMA Policy - Principles Concerning Physician Information]

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is committed to ensuring that the information and data in physician electronic medical records (EMR) are used in a manner that respects the confidentiality and integrity of patient information. The CMA has developed Guiding Principles for Physician Electronic Medical Records (EMR) Adoption in Canada, which outline the ethical, legal, and professional standards for the development, implementation, and use of EMR systems in Canada. These principles are intended to guide healthcare professionals, organizations, and stakeholders in the design, development, and implementation of EMR systems, as well as in the management and oversight of their use.

The principles are as follows:

1. The primary purpose of the EMR is to improve the delivery of high-quality care by providing access to complete and accurate information about individual patients, enabling the timely and effective use of that information to enhance the quality of patient care.
2. Patients have the right to access and control their personal health information, and EMR systems must be designed to support and facilitate this right.
3. EMR systems must be securely protected against unauthorized access, use, disclosure, or modification.
4. The confidentiality of patient information is maintained, and data is protected from inappropriate use.
5. EMR systems must be designed to comply with relevant federal and provincial laws and regulations.
6. EMR systems must be user-friendly and accessible to healthcare professionals, organizations, and patients.
7. EMR systems must be periodically reviewed and evaluated to ensure their ongoing effectiveness and compliance with relevant standards.

The CMA encourages healthcare professionals and organizations to adopt and implement EMR systems that adhere to these principles, and to continue to monitor and evaluate the use of EMR systems to ensure their ongoing effectiveness and compliance with relevant standards.

[End of CMA Policy - Principles Concerning Physician Information]
Guiding Principles for Physician Electronic Medical Records (EMR) Adoption in Ambulatory Clinical Practice

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy9117

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Policy document

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TOPICS
Health information and e-health

Documents
Vision for e-Prescribing: a joint statement by the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Pharmacists Association

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10670

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TOPICS  Health information and e-health
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Best practices for smartphone and smart-device clinical photo taking and sharing

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13860

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TOPICS  Health information and e-health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Principles for the protection of patient privacy

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13833

POLICY TYPE
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2017-12-09

REPLACES
PD11-03 Principles for the Protection of Patients’ Personal Health Information

TOPICS
Health information and e-health
Ethics and medical professionalism
Guiding principles for physicians recommending mobile health applications to patients
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11521

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2015-05-30

TOPICS
Health information and e-health
Physician practice, compensation, forms