Guiding principles for the optimal use of data analytics by physicians at the point of care
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Guiding Principles for the Optimal Use of Data Analytics by Physicians at the Point of Care

Summary

Electronic records are being used more widely in medical practice, and a majority of physicians in Canada have integrated electronic health records (EHR). EHRs can provide physicians with timely access to patient data and enable clinicians to complete tasks efficiently and effectively. However, when using EHRs, physicians must be able to access the right information to make evidence-based decisions, while ensuring patient privacy and confidentiality.

Optimizing the use of EHRs requires balancing the urgency of managing clinical data with ethical considerations. The following principles offer guidance to care providers on the appropriate and ethical use of data at the point of care.

1. Confidentiality
   - The information contained within an EHR is confidential and should be protected.
   - Consent must be obtained for access to medical information.

2. Privacy
   - Personal health information must be protected from unauthorized access.
   - Disclosures of health information require the patient’s consent.

3. Security
   - The confidentiality of health information must be maintained.
   - Access to EHRs must be restricted to authorized users.

4. Accuracy
   - The accuracy of data and information in an EHR should be ensured.
   - Data should be updated and corrected as necessary.

5. Accountability
   - Accountability for the actions of healthcare providers must be maintained.
   - Users of information contained within EHRs must be accountable for their actions.

6. Legality
   - The use of EHRs must be compliant with legal requirements.
   - Appropriate steps must be taken to ensure legal protection.

These principles provide guidance for the use of data analytics by physicians at the point of care, ensuring that patient privacy and confidentiality are maintained, and that data is used ethically and effectively.
Guiding Principles for Physician Electronic Medical Records (EMR) Adoption in Ambulatory Clinical Practice

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

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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

Documents
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

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

TOPICS  Health information and e-health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
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

Documents