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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

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

Executive Summary

Data analytic tools are being used more widely in creating their own datasets. A majority of physicians in Canada have access to such data, which can provide valuable insights into patient care and clinical outcomes. However, the use of data analytics in healthcare must be approached with caution to ensure that patient privacy is protected and that the data is used ethically and responsibly. This policy outlines the guiding principles for the optimal use of data analytics by physicians at the point of care.

Key Principles

1. Data Confidentiality: Physicians should ensure that patient data is kept confidential and that access to the data is restricted to authorized personnel. The use of de-identified data is preferred to protect patient privacy.

2. Informed Consent: Physicians should obtain informed consent from patients before collecting or using their data. Patients should be informed about how their data will be used and for what purposes.

3. Ethical Use: Physicians should use data analytics ethically and in a manner that is consistent with the principles of professionalism and the medical ethics codes.

4. Patient Privacy: Physicians should ensure that patient privacy is protected at all times, even when using de-identified data. Measures should be in place to prevent unauthorized access to patient information.

5. Data Security: Physicians should establish robust security measures to protect patient data from unauthorized access, theft, or loss.

6. Data Sharing: Physicians should be transparent about data sharing agreements and ensure that data is shared only with authorized parties.

7. Continuous Improvement: Physicians should continuously assess and improve the use of data analytics to ensure that it is effective and aligned with patient care goals.

8. Patient Engagement: Physicians should involve patients in the decision-making process and seek their input when using data analytics to improve patient care.

Conclusion

Data analytics has the potential to revolutionize patient care and improve clinical outcomes. However, the use of data analytics must be approached with care to ensure that patient privacy is protected and that the data is used ethically and responsibly. This policy provides a framework for the optimal use of data analytics by physicians at the point of care.