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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

**Executive Summary**

Electronic records are now being used more widely in Canada than ever before. A majority of physicians in Canada have implemented electronic medical records (EMRs, or electronic medical records). EMRs allow physicians to access patient records from their own office, and data can then be shared with other physicians, clinics, hospitals and laboratories, as well as with patients. The purpose of this document is to assist physicians in the use of electronic medical records, in particular, in the context of data analytics. These analytics can be used to improve patient care, and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health-care system.

Data analytics in health care can help physicians make better decisions about patient care. It can also help them identify patterns and trends in patient care, which can be used to improve the quality of care. This document provides a framework for the optimal use of data analytics by physicians at the point of care.

**Applications of Data Analytics**

Data analytics can be used in a variety of applications, including:

1. **Quality Improvement:** Data analytics can be used to identify areas for improvement in patient care. This can help physicians to identify areas where they can improve the quality of care.
2. **Economic Analysis:** Data analytics can be used to determine the cost-effectiveness of different treatments. This can help physicians to make more informed decisions about which treatments to use.
3. **Research:** Data analytics can be used to conduct research on the effectiveness of different treatments. This can help researchers to identify new treatments that can be used to improve patient care.

**Optimal Use of Data Analytics**

The optimal use of data analytics requires a balance between maximizing the value of the data and minimizing the risk of harm. This balance can be achieved by:

1. **Understanding the Data:** Physicians should understand the data they are using and how it was collected.
2. **Ensuring Privacy:** Data analytics should be conducted in a way that ensures the privacy of patients.
3. **Ethical Considerations:** Physicians should consider the ethical implications of data analytics.

**Conclusion**

Data analytics can be a powerful tool for improving patient care and the efficiency of the health-care system. However, it is important to use data analytics in an optimal way, ensuring that the value of the data is maximized while minimizing the risk of harm.

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