

eHRR Seminar Series

electronic Health Records in Research

Thursday Oct 29 4:30 p.m.

Room 2108, Child and Family Research Institute,
BC Children's and Women's Hospital, 950 W. 28th Ave.

Finding Big Data in (not from) Small Places

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Targeted audience:

Vancouver health and population research leaders as well as clinical data managers and analysts from the lower mainland Health Authorities.

Topic Details:

It has been challenging to unlock the potential of primary care data. If used properly, primary care electronic medical records (EMR) can contain a very comprehensive history in many circumstances exceeding what can be obtained through linked databases. AMCARE (Aggregated Metrics for Clinical Analysis, Research and Evaluation) is a system collaboratively built by the University of Northern British Columbia, Northern Health and northern physicians to collect aggregate information from EMR using primary care practices. Over 100 indicators are regularly collected without any patient level data leaving the practice. Provider privacy is ensured by an invitation based sharing system for clinic level information. Contributing providers are easily able to compare their data in the domains of practice size, age and encounter distribution, screening, prevention, chronic disease management, disease prevalence and practice management. The ability to compare data has led to improved EMR meaningful use, clinical performance, and resource allocation while also supporting various initiatives such as team based care. The AMCARE system, its use and plans for extending distributed data collection across multiple EMR products over a much broader geography will be discussed.

Background:

The increased use of electronic Health Records (eHR) in clinical settings is enabling the development of new methodologies in health research. In many institutions across the world, rich clinical data is now extracted from eHRs, anonymized, and made available to the research community for epidemiologic, quality improvement, surveillance, or other studies. In the current context leading to eHR implementation across Vancouver lower mainland, we believe it is important for researchers and administrators to understand the opportunities and challenges in using eHRs for research. This monthly seminar series will showcase real examples from leaders in the field, focusing both on the methodology and the vision forward. It will alternate location between the Child and Family Research Institute, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, and Providence Health Care Research Institute.

