

Diabetes Management

Diabetes is a serious chronic disease and growing health problem. It is the sixth leading cause of death in Ontario¹ and a leading cause of cardiovascular disease, amputation, blindness and end-stage renal failure leading to dialysis².

An estimated 1.1 million people in Ontario have type 1 or type 2 diabetes, representing approximately 8.3 per cent of the population. The number is expected to increase by another 734,000 over the next decade reaching 1.9 million by 2020³.

The Government of Ontario is committed to being a leader in the prevention, management and treatment of diabetes and other chronic diseases in the province.

Designed with a focus on delivering quality, value and evidence-based care, the Ontario Diabetes Strategy (ODS) incorporates a variety of initiatives to help both Ontarians with diabetes and health care providers to play pivotal roles in helping to better managing the disease.

As a key element of the strategy, eHealth Ontario is implementing a Diabetes Registry (DR) built upon a chronic disease management system. The DR will be a secure and useful web-based tool for health care providers to monitor and care for patients by enhancing a provider's access to a patient's health information.

Diabetes Registry

The DR will be an interactive, real-time information system designed to support better management of diabetes patient care according to recommended guidelines.

Using existing provincial databases, the DR will support evidence-based decision making by capturing and trending lab results and dates for kidney function (albumin to

creatinine ratio), cholesterol (low-density lipoprotein) and blood sugar levels (glycated hemoglobin / HbA1c). It will also capture the date of the last retinal eye exam and primary care visit. Primary care providers can also enter additional information (e.g. blood pressure). The DR will be available to the patient's care team, ensuring a common understanding of the clinical information that informs the treatment plan. In the future, the DR will also provide patients with self-management guidance and tools.

By integrating with other provincial systems such as the Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS) and the Ontario Claims Database, the DR will continually capture lab results and dates and identify newly diagnosed patients with diabetes. It will generate alerts to the appropriate care team members for out-of-range lab results and reminders for overdue or upcoming examinations.



Fact Sheet

Patient benefits:

- Will reduce the need for patients to repeat diabetes health information to each member of their care team;
- Will allow patients to receive printouts of their own customized care plans which they can share with their families and caregivers;
- Alerts and reminders followed by providers will help patients be more aware of overdue lab tests, out-of-range test results, overdue primary care provider visits and retinal eye screening, which should make adhering to recommended care easier.

Diabetes care provider benefits:

- Will enable providers to view patient health information and monitor compliance with evidence-based interventions, leading to better patient outcomes;
- Will improve communication and coordination between care team members, internal and external to the practice;
- Will enable providers to be more proactive in setting patient care plan goals, view progress against targets and receive alerts when best practices are not being followed.

Health system benefits:

- Will support a reduction in incidents requiring visits to hospitals by helping clinicians improve diabetes management;
- Will enable improved care delivery planning and support with aggregate level reports;
- Will identify regional and provincial trends, testing gaps and measures service improvements.



Progress to date:

- A stringent procurement process led to the selection of a vendor and DR solution. The solution supports the management of chronic diseases, including diabetes;
- eHealth Ontario and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) are currently working with the vendor to tailor the solution to Ontario's specific needs; and
- A preliminary release of the DR to approximately 20 health care organizations in the Champlain (Ottawa) and Southwest (London) regions is currently underway.

Next Steps

The preliminary DR release will be followed by a wider provincial rollout of the solution.

1. Health-Ontario.ca
2. Medical Advisory Secretariat (MAS). Diabetes Strategy Evidence Platform: A Summary of Evidence-Based Analysis. Ontario Health Technology Assessment Series 2009:9 (19)
3. The Cost of Diabetes in Ontario/Canadian Diabetes Association