Nursing Leadership Network

e-Health and Nursing

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
e-Health Program

Ontario

Context

- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has undertake initiatives to transform the health system to improve health and health care for the people of Ontario.

- Implementation of e-Health concurrently with these initiatives will help expedite system transformation and enhance health care improvements.

e-Health Directions

Prospective Government Commitments:*

"Help the growing number of Ontarians living with diabetes through a mix of prevention, technology, personal planning and access to specialized resources and health professionals."

"Create an electronic health record by 2015 and give Ontarians control over the information contained in it."

* From "Moving Forward Together", The Ontario Liberal Plan 2007

Provincial Priorities (Budget 2008)

Modernizing Health Infrastructure

- *"Invest $47 million in 2008–09, growing to $239 million in 2010–11, in e-health systems such as diagnostic imaging, drug and lab information, and a Diabetes Registry, which will help people with diabetes to actively manage their disease in conjunction with their health care providers."*

Ministry Priorities – e-Health as an Enabler

Access to Services	Family Care for All
• *Emergency Departments*	• *Increasing # of nurses*
• *Aging at Home*	• *Increase Nurse Practitioner Clinics*
• *Diabetes/CDM*	• *Increased cancer screening*
• *Mental Health & Addiction*	• *Increased medical school spaces*
• *High Growth Hospital Funding*	• *Improved public health*

Enablers: Health Information, and **e-Health**

The Purpose of e-Health is…………..Health!

- The business imperative underlying e-Health is improved health and health care – not technology!

- Health systems transformation is crucial to meeting Ontario's health needs in the 21st century.

- e-Health means that patients, providers and system administrators share and use information for better care and a more effective system.

- There are a number of e-Health initiatives across the province. These need to be harnesses and leveraged to truly build a more comprehensive electronic health record

e-Health as an Enabler for Transformation

- Shifting from a paper-based to an electronic based system of record keeping and information sharing across provider groups and sectors is a key enabler to system transformation.

    - Improved system efficiency
    - Improved system integration
    - Improved quality of care – for a patient centred system
    - Improved collaboration with health teams through new ways to improve the continuum of care to make better decisions, care planning, follow-up and sharing best practices

Value Proposition for Nursing

- Can securely access the e-Health systems anywhere, anytime

- Can readily inform themselves about their patient's current condition and the latest best practices in clinical care

- Can quickly communicate with other providers in their patient's circles of care

Some Observations

- Nurses are using electronic methods in many settings but there is not a level playing field.

- Local nurse, client and other stakeholder engagement is critical to improving care using e-Health

- Strong local management leadership is critical – local champions.

- Nursing input into local design and work flow is necessary.

- Need to access technology is important (too few computers or remote workers).

- Appropriate, relevant, and timely training is a key factor in introducing new methods of work for healthcare service providers (need to look at different delivery channels).

Some challenges

- Different technologies and approaches across the province – the need for interoperability.

- Adoption and uptake by nurses, physicians, and other health professionals will be critical.

- It is not the technology – but how it changes the workflow – managing change is critical (may need specialized resources to help).

- Move from local access to provincial access.

THANK YOU