

Paving the way for seamless care collaboration

eHealth Ontario

Toronto, Canada

Key facts as of 2017

- Patient population of 14 million
- 40 million XDS documents per year
- 145 hospitals at 232 locations; 14 local health integration networks; three regions with four diagnostic imaging repositories
- Provincial Health Information Access Layer (HIAL)
- 22.2 million searches for patient records by 79,000 professionals as of November 2017



You've been asked to bring a CD of your recent scans from your specialist to your primary care provider. It's time-consuming, but you manage. However, when this same process takes place in 145 hospitals across Ontario every day, it goes far beyond an inconvenience. When practitioners can't share or access records easily, treatment can be delayed and unnecessary re-tests might be performed. This costs time – and money.

Building strong foundations for true collaborative care

eHealth Ontario wanted to support the exchange of clinical information for the province's digital health record system, in a way that would promote effective collaboration between its care teams. The agency chose several solutions based on the XDS standards and the Philips Interoperability Platform. Working in an environment of disparate information systems, technologies and platforms, eHealth Ontario is now empowering healthcare practitioners across the province to view and share all kinds of clinical documents – and so bringing people and data together.

Challenge

Facilitate the development of Ontario's public digital health record system and support a collaborative care approach, using networks to connect health organizations and sole practitioners across the province and repositories which securely store billions of records.

Way forward

Philips Interoperability Platform components to support Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Common Services and provincial viewer as well as a proof-of-concept for sharing of primary care data.

Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Common Services

- Partner: IBM (for the Health Information Access Layer (HIAL))
- Philips Interoperability Platform with XDS infrastructure components
- Consists of: MPI (IBM); content registry (EHO); XDS registry/repository (Philips); four VNAs (GE and AGFA); OnePortal (EHO)

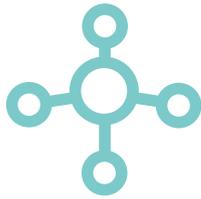
Diagnostic Imaging (DI) provincial viewer

- Partner: AGFA
- Philips Interoperability Platform tool to access shared clinical information
- Consists of: diagnostic viewer (AFGAXero); XDS consumer (Philips)

Proof-of-concept for sharing of primary care data

- Partner: IBM
- Philips Interoperability Platform storage solution
- Consists of: XDS registry/repository (Philips); existing registry (Philips)

Simple, scalable and secure data exchange



Managing complexity with simplicity

Simplicity has stood the test of time with eHealth Ontario. The agency first launched its Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Common Services solution with the Philips Interoperability Platform to manage 40 million XDS documents a year. At a later stage, eHealth Ontario wanted to deploy a proof-of-concept for primary care data sharing. The agency discovered it could quickly leverage the DI XDS assets already in use just by changing the configuration of which documents are accepted by the XDS registry/repository. As a result, there was no need to build a system from scratch.

Healthcare practitioners across the province also benefit from simplicity. Instead of wondering about where certain clinical documents are stored, they quickly and easily access the information they need. The Philips Interoperability Platform links four diagnostic imaging repositories by making one central index and a central viewer available to all healthcare practitioners. The result is that the right data reaches the right people at the right time – supporting the delivery of high-quality patient care.



Preparing for the future

Although a patient's prior clinical documents are accessed less often than recent ones, they still need to be archived according to provincial legislation. Every year, eHealth Ontario handles 40,000,000 XDS documents. That number will continue to grow as the general population ages and benefits from early detection procedures. What happens then? The scalable, future-proof Philips Interoperability Platform gives the agency the capability of storage abstraction and moving the data to more cost-effective storage layers.



Providing security

Healthcare data security measures in Ontario must also meet strict requirements on how different users audit and track access to that data. In response, eHealth Ontario wanted to elevate its diagnostic imaging repository's token standards. The Philips Interoperability Solutions team already understood the various SAML tokens used in a provincial HIAL and partnered with the agency to implement all the translations needed for a secure and interoperable provincial solution that allows people to view and share clinical documents.

This approach allows eHealth Ontario to maintain high levels of security and privacy when handling patient data, and so supports the agency's desire to bring its people and data together safely and securely.

