

Study: Viewer helps pathologists treat cancer patients

ClinicalConnect™ is helping pathologists at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (CKHA) better understand their patients' health histories and produce more narrow differential diagnoses, according to the results of a benefits realization study conducted at the hospital.

CKHA Pathologists Dr. Jason Back and Dr. Mohammad Elsibai both found the viewer offered “significant clinical and organizational benefits” after participating in the study conducted by Transform, the cSWO Program’s Delivery Partner in the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network.

“I use ClinicalConnect very often,” says Mohammad, calling the web-based portal a “very helpful source of information that enables me to access my patients’ previous pathology diagnoses. This has been a great benefit for making a correct diagnosis, a shorter turnaround time as well as saving time and money for the public health system.”

Jason agrees and credits ClinicalConnect with helping two of his patients avoid unnecessary flow cytometry (FC) tests which are used in the diagnosis of blood cancers. Using costing data provided by CKHA’s laboratory services, the avoidance of one flow cytometry test per week could result in annual savings of \$19,000.

“ClinicalConnect is my primary source for patient health information,” Jackson says. “Laboratory results, reports, and clinical notes from CKHA and outside sites that I may otherwise have limited or delayed access to, are compiled in one place.”

One in two Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their life – and pathological diagnoses, research, and services play a critical role in all stages of cancer care. According to the Canadian Partnership against Cancer, electronic health records that enable accurate and timely information sharing are vital for efficient and high quality pathology services.