

Data exchange that works for everyone



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

Challenge

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

Way forward

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

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. This same process in 145 hospitals across Ontario every day, however, 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.

eHealth Ontario wanted to support the seamless exchange of data for the province's digital health record system. The agency chose several solutions based on the XDS information model and featuring Forcare components to create true interoperability. 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 quickly and easily.

Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Common Services

- Partner: AGFA; IBM (for the Health Information Access Layer (HIAL))
- Forcare modules: forIndex; forStore; forAudit; forView
- Consists of: MPI (IBM); content registry (EHO); XDS registry/repository (Forcare); four VNAs (GE and AGFA); OnePortal (EHO)

Diagnostic Imaging (DI) provincial viewer

- Partner: AGFA
- Forcare modules: forView
- Consists of: diagnostic viewer (AFGAXero); XDS Consumer (Forcare)

Proof-of-concept for sharing of primary care data

- Partner: IBM
- Forcare modules: forStore
- Consists of: XDS registry/repository (Forcare); existing registry (Forcare)

Simple, scalable and secure data exchange with Forcare



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 Forcare components 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. Forcare technology running within the HIAL links four diagnostic imaging repositories by making one central index and a central viewer available to all healthcare practitioners.



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? Forcare's scalable system gives the agency the capability of storage abstraction and moving the data to more cost-effective storage layers.



Ensuring 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. Forcare 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.

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