

# President's Letter

November 5, 2015



Jonathan Greenland  
MD, FRCPC  
President

## NLMA and Provincial Government Reach Agreement on EMR program

- NLMA signed an agreement with Government on the governance and cost-sharing of an EMR program.
- Med Access EMR by TELUS Health Provider Solutions was selected as the preferred product.
- Physicians will pay 30% of the EMR program costs and Government will pay 70%.
- The EMR will be integrated with the provincial EHR, connecting physicians to patient and provider information, lab results, medical imaging reports, medication profiles and MCP billing.

Dear Colleagues:

On October 30, 2015, the NLMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health and Community Services and the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (the Centre) on the governance and cost-sharing of a provincial electronic medical record (EMR) program for physicians. Also on October 30, the Centre awarded a vendor contract to TELUS Health Provider Solutions to deliver the provincial program with its *Med Access EMR* product. Physicians representing the NLMA were involved in the search, evaluation and selection of the EMR vendor.

The first phase of the project will allow adoption by up to 300 users and will initially target community-based fee-for-service family physicians. Participation will be voluntary.

We are pleased that government will finance the capital costs for the provincial EMR system and is committed to the ongoing investment of 70 per cent of annual program operating fees. Physicians who voluntarily participate will pay the remaining 30 per cent of annual operating fees. Physicians will be responsible for providing their own hardware (e.g. computers or tablets, printers, scanners, etc.), as well as their Internet connection.

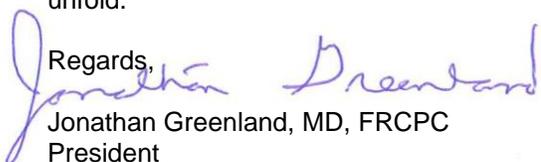
The monthly fee for the Med Access EMR program will be highly competitive with other EMR systems, but with the added benefits of robust integration will the provincial electronic health record (EHR), comprehensive support for physicians' practices and the ability to create and submit bills directly to MCP.

When fully integrated with the provincial EHR, the new EMR program will allow community-based physicians to access information from the Provider Registry, the Client Registry, laboratory results, medical imaging, patient encounters (ADT), and community medication profiles available from the Pharmacy Network. (The Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board requires all pharmacies to be connected to the Pharmacy Network by January 1, 2017.)

An EMR Program Director and staff will be hired and housed at the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information. They will report directly to the joint EMR Management Committee composed of representatives equally appointed by the NLMA and the Department of Health and Community Services. Decisions of the EMR Management Committee will be made by consensus. The schedule for the EMR roll-out is not yet determined but will be communicated to physicians after the EMR Management Committee is in place.

As you can appreciate, this is a massive undertaking involving numerous systems and stakeholders. Our priority is to ensure that the program is introduced in the most efficient and least disruptive way for physicians. This is an exciting time, and NLMA is pleased to be at the forefront of implementing this technology that will advance our vision for primary care reform and support recruitment and retention. We are confident that when fully operational, Med Access EMR will enhance information sharing between health care providers and provide the means for physicians to improve clinical efficiencies. In the coming months, we look forward to updating you about how the EMR implementation process will unfold.

Regards,

  
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