

Physicians' Use of Electronic Medical Records (EMR)

Name and Definition

Full Name	Physician utilization of electronic medical records: Percentage of community physicians using the Electronic Medical Record in their clinic	
Short Name	Physicians' Use of Electronic Medical Records (EMR)	
Definition	The percentage of Alberta's community physicians enrolled in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Completion Program (formerly the Physician Office System Program (POSP)) and using electronic medical records in their practice.	
Domain	Health System Sustainability	
Dimension		
Fiscal Efficiencies	Health Workforce	Information Management / Information Technology
No	No	No
Health Technologies		
Yes		
Category of Measure	Strategic	
Type of Measure	Outcome Measure	
Other Comments / Notes		

Context

Business Context	Health and Wellness 2012-15 Ministry Business Plan
Rationale	The performance measure quantifies the adoption rate of electronic medical record (EMR) technology into physician practices. EMR technology supports best practice care delivery and helps community physicians provide improved primary care services to Albertans.
Notes for Interpretation	<p>Insured service information is provided quarterly from Alberta Health to the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) to update the membership database (MSIS). The MSIS database is available for POSP to use in calculating the total potential community physicians and in evaluating eligibility of program participants.</p> <p>All data used to manage and fund POSP participants is collected within the iPOSP database. Funding data is reviewed and approved by the POSP Administration Team Lead with final approval by AMA Finance. Deployment data is reviewed by the POSP Human Resources & Performance Management Team Lead and reported monthly to the POSP Committee by the POSP Management Team.</p>
Organizational Strategy	<p>EMR adoption is supported through the EMR Completion Program, which superseded the Physician Office System Program (POSP) on April 1, 2011. The role of the program is to enable the use of electronic medical records by physicians, who provide insured services in Alberta, to improve patient care and support best practice care delivery within Alberta's electronic health environment.</p> <p>The EMR Completion Program is still referred to as POSP to avoid brand confusion. It provides financial and change management support to community physicians who want to implement an EMR system in their clinic. The goal of the program is to finish deploying EMR solutions to all Alberta community physicians by March 31, 2014.</p> <p>The EMR Completion Program is governed by an interim advisory committee with representatives from Alberta Health and Wellness, the Alberta Medical Association and Alberta Health Services. POSP is an integral component of Alberta Netcare, the Provinces electronic health record strategy.</p>
Benchmark Comparisons	None
Cited References	Health and Wellness 2012-15 Ministry Business Plan

Technical Specifications

Performance Measure Definition

Metric	Percent							
Preferred Display Format	99%							
Numerator	The number of community physicians enrolled in POSP using an EMR in their clinic.							
Inclusion Criteria for Numerator	The number of POSP grant-funded physicians that were using an EMR plus the total number of physicians who have implemented an EMR from a qualified vendor (achieved Milestone 3/Go-Live).							
Exclusion Criteria for Numerator	Community physicians not enrolled in POSP are not included.							
Data Source(s) for Numerator	POSP funding and enrolment database (iPOSP) Alberta Health Services (AHS) Lab destinations per physician							
Refresh Rate for Numerator	Monthly							
Data Steward for Numerator	Alberta Medical Association (AMA)							
Denominator	The total number of community physicians that are potentially eligible to be enrolled in POSP.							
Inclusion Criteria for Denominator	All physicians who are listed in the AMA database and whose work or home address is in Alberta. Community based physicians who provide primary care to patients in a clinical setting. An extract from the AMA database provides all members and staff positions.							
Exclusion Criteria for Denominator	Staff, non-physicians and deceased members are removed based on AMA charge codes. Physicians who do not have a work or home address in Alberta are removed. The address is contained in the data from the AMA database. Non-community based physicians are removed based on: i. Specialty: The specialties are identified as physicians who do not provide primary care to patients in a clinical setting as their point of care is in a hospital or research facility. ii. Lab results: Physicians whose lab results are sent only to an AHS facility or military facility. Physicians who have previously engaged with POSP and are known to be working in an academic facility are removed							
Data Source(s) for Denominator	Alberta Medical Association (AMA) membership database (MSIS)							
Refresh Rate for Denominator	Quarterly							
Data Steward for Denominator	Alberta Medical Association (AMA)							
Technical Notes								
Calculation	$(\text{The number of community physicians enrolled in POSP using an EMR in their clinic} / \text{The total number of community physicians that are potentially eligible to be enrolled in POSP}) * 100$							
Relationship to Other Indicators	Alberta Netcare: Number of care providers accessing Alberta Netcare							
Level of Reporting	National	No	Provincial	Yes	Zone	No	Site	No
Reporting Notes								
Frequency of Reporting	Annually	Yes	Quarterly	No	Monthly	No	Other	No
Other Reporting Frequency								
Limitations	POSP has changed from grant funding to invoice-based reimbursement. Going forward, the assumption has been that physicians who received grant funding will continue to use EMRs unless POSP is notified otherwise. This assumption is substantiated with periodic reviews by POSP.							

Planning Documents

Reference Documents

Name	Business Planning Document URL
2012 – 2013 Health Annual Report	http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Annual-Report-13.pdf

Performance Results

Targets

Performance Period	Target	Last Actual Result
2010-11	57%	53%
2011-12	60%	57%
2012-13	70%	70%