

BACKGROUNDER

Infoway expands Certification Services to include four new offerings

Canada Health Inforoute has expanded the list of electronic health record (EHR) products that can apply to receive pre-implementation certification.

The focus of Certification Services is on ensuring products can provide the privacy required to protect a person's personal health information, grant secure access to authorized health care professionals and can interoperate with the core elements of the EHRs that are being built by provinces and territories throughout Canada.

Vendors whose solutions achieve certification will be authorized to apply the "Infoway Certified" certification mark to their product and related marketing materials, enhancing their promotional efforts and saleability. Certified solutions will bear the *Infoway* certification mark, which will be recognized by jurisdictions considering investments in particular health-information technologies. The *Infoway* mark will be the buyers' assurance that the certified solutions conform to pan-Canadian standards.

The following are the four new certification offerings:

Client Registries

A client registry is an essential component of an EHR system which supports the centralized storage and retrieval of client (patient) identification data, and enterprise client identifiers (ECIDs).

The *Infoway* pre-implementation client registry certification is relevant to vendors providing client registries at the national, jurisdictional, regional or local level.

Consumer Health Applications

Consumer health applications provide users (patients) with the ability to collect, retrieve, manage, use and share personal health information through secure electronic channels.

The *Infoway* pre-implementation consumer health application certification is relevant to those health information technology solutions including:

- o Devices provided to users;
- o Applications that run on users' personal computers or Local Area Networks;
- o Applications that run, and provide services from, a network-resident location (ASP services); or
- o Any combination of the above.

The criteria are intended to cover all possibilities, except stand-alone devices which do not share personal information beyond the device.

Immunization Registries

Immunization registries are core elements of EHR systems and are considered to be part of the collection of services provided by the shared record system. These registries support the centralized storage and retrieval of immunization events and patient immunization profiles.

The immunization registry pre-implementation certification allows for assessment of an immunization registry application alone, or as an application-based service offering.

Provider Registries

A provider registry is an essential component of an EHR system, providing a centralized repository for the storage and retrieval of provider identification data and enterprise provider identifiers. Provider registries allow each physician, pharmacist or other member of the health care system to be uniquely identified.

The *Infoway* pre-implementation provider registry certification is relevant to vendors providing provider registries at the national, jurisdictional, regional or local level.

About *Infoway* Certification Services

Infoway Certification Services were developed to help accelerate the introduction of private and secure EHR systems that leverage Canada's substantial investments in electronic health.

At the end of *Infoway's* 2008-2009 fiscal year, 283 EHR system projects were underway across Canada. Many of them are capturing and storing the personal health information of Canadians at the point of care. *Infoway* Certification Services will help ensure EHR system investments conform to pan-Canadian functionality, privacy, security, interoperability and management standards in use across the country.

These standards refer to the data and message transference terminology understood and agreed upon by all users of an EHR. Such standards are intrinsic to the development and adoption of EHR projects compatible with a pan-Canadian electronic health information system because they facilitate information exchange and are the building blocks of the foundation for an interconnected EHR across Canada.

Infoway certification will help to increase the recognition, acceptance and adoption of trusted, interoperable health-information technology solutions in the Canadian marketplace.

How do vendors apply for certification?

Health-information technology vendors in the Canadian market can apply for any of the five pre-implementation Certification Services offered by *Infoway*. Vendors can register on the *Infoway* website to receive more information about the application process for pre-implementation certification or to stay informed about upcoming Certification Service announcements. Vendors can also request the *Guide to Pre-implementation Certification Services*, designed to provide them with all the

information needed to apply for certification, participate in the assessment of their products and receive certification for the pre-implementation phase. The guide describes the certification process and details the assessment criteria. It also includes information about pricing and terms associated with obtaining and maintaining certified status.

To learn more about *Infoway* Certification Services, visit:
www.infoway-inforoute.ca/certificationservices.

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