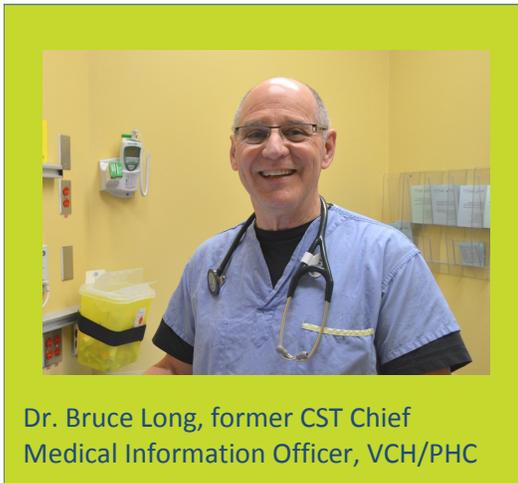


## A Canadian e-health success story



The June 2014 issue of *Future Practice* magazine features an article entitled “Doing CPOE right: a Canadian hospital experience”.

That Canadian hospital is North York General Hospital in Ontario, a 418-bed acute care community teaching hospital with an ambulatory care centre and a seniors’ health centre.

As part of a project called eCare, North York replaced its manual systems with computerized provider order entry (CPOE)

and closed loop medication management systems in October 2010. (By April 2011, it became one of only four Canadian hospitals to achieve HIMSS Level 6.)

The Clinical & Systems Transformation (CST) project is working to emulate North York’s success. “Even though it wasn’t mandatory, their compliance with CPOE was over 90% right off the bat, because providers saw the benefits right away,” says Dr. Bruce Long. “They also saw an almost simultaneous reduction in adverse events.”

Dr. Long envisions a future for VCH, PHSA and PHC that is already a reality at North York. “What really comes home for me,” he says, “is that we can initiate processes to occur in parallel, not in series.

“Imagine a middle-aged man with severe chest pain in the Emergency Department. I can see on my screen his vital signs, his demographics, his CTAS (triage and acuity) score, the ECG results, and the triage nurse’s notes. I can initiate an order set before I even see the patient.

“I could be walking down the corridor in tandem with an ECG technician, a nurse bringing aspirin, a lab technician – all going straight to the patient because the orders are initiated in

parallel. At the moment, the orders all go into the patient's paper chart, which gets physically passed from person to person. He might have waited for an hour. So we're reducing delay, improving care, and improving outcomes."

In the *Future Practice* article, Dr. Jeremy Theal, North York's Chief Medical Information Officer, explains that patient safety and patient-centred care were the reasons behind eCare. He describes how they developed, tested and introduced standardized order sets in a way that worked for physicians and clinical staff. He also lists some of the improvements seen after one year of CPOE, including medication turnaround time and mortality rates; and the factors that were instrumental to the success of eCare.

## Background information

The Clinical and Systems Transformation project is a joint initiative of three health organizations: Vancouver Coastal Health, Provincial Health Services Authority and Providence Health Care. The project is designed to transform health care delivery systems and processes to improve the quality and consistency of the patient and caregiver experience. CST will support the health organizations in establishing common clinical and process standards, including work flows, order sets, clinical guidelines integrated plans of care and a common electronic health record. This clinical transformation will be supported by the implementation of a clinical information system that will replace aging existing systems. The project will be implemented in stages across the health organizations.

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