



NEWS

Preventive tool promotes better patient health

P-PROMPT designed to maximize physician earnings.

BY NEIL ZEIDENBERG

Administrative tasks can take a good chunk of time out of a physician's day – time that's better spent with patients. For this reason, most doctors don't max out on their preventive care bonuses. Recently though, a new service became available that does the work for them.

Called P-PROMPT, it's designed specifically for Ontario GPs eligible to bill OHIP for preventive care bonuses. These services include Pap smears for the prevention of cervical cancer, mammograms, childhood vaccinations and flu immunizations. The solution is the first of its kind.

"P-PROMPT helps physicians get their bonuses without taking them away from what really matters – their patients," said Dr. Karim Keshavjee, principal of InfoClin, an EMR consulting firm helping to bring the solution to physician offices.

Initially developed at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., P-PROMPT received funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and was beta tested by 250 Ontario physicians over a 2-year period between 2005 and 2007. It was shown to greatly improve the tracking of preventive care services and increased the number of bonuses physicians were able to claim. P-PROMPT is currently used by over 150 doctors, and was recently made available for Family Health Groups (FHG).

P-PROMPT, now a useful chronic disease management tool as well, is

available as either a web-based solution, or as a fax-based tool for physician offices that have yet to go digital.

Ontario doctors stand to gain over \$40,000 annually through bonus payments by following through with preventive care procedures – but many let these funds slip away, as they don't have time to manage the organizational tasks and paperwork that are required. P-PROMPT has been designed to ease the process through automation.

The purchase price for P-PROMPT is approximately \$3,500 per doctor; Dr. Keshavjee estimates that on average, it would cost about \$12,000 to do manually what the software does automatically.

and which patients are overdue. The latter becomes a physician's priority, and P-PROMPT will send out a formal letter on the doctor's behalf. If there's still no response by the patient, P-PROMPT will send out a second letter, and provide physicians with a list of patients they can call.

P-PROMPT also helps to manage the complex rules of billing for preventive services and assessments and maintains an auditable record of the care physicians provide to their patients. It ensures compliance with OHIP rules and is fully accountable for all eligible bonuses.

Other highlights of P-PROMPT:

- Maintains an up-to-date version of a physician's patient roster directly from the Ministry of Health;
- Obtains data from Cancer Care Ontario for patients who have had Pap smears and mammograms;
- Supports an MOH incentive program by helping physicians to track their patients with chronic disease conditions like diabetes

or offer smoking cessation counseling to patients trying to quit.

One thing P-PROMPT is not, said Dr. Keshavjee, is billing software. "It's simply an effective tool for tracking your eligible services and managing your preventive care bonuses. It's not designed to submit your invoices to OHIP."

P-PROMPT was recently named winner of the Innovations in Health Information Management award at the Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo 2007 Conference – a venue that showcases innovative solutions and projects that support Ontario's health-care system.



Minister George Smitherman, Dr. Rolf Sebaldt, Dr. Lynne Lohfield.

P-PROMPT, says Dr. Keshavjee, generates quick and easy-to-read reports in real-time of all preventive services provided on a weekly basis, and can easily track which patients are up to date with their immunizations or mammograms, which patients are due for a visit,