

BACKGROUND

Last fall, eDOCSNL launched the electronic distribution of patient results (for laboratory and diagnostic imaging) directly into a select number of EMRs in Newfoundland and Labrador.

After a successful implementation period, there are now 200 physicians in the province receiving clinical results electronically.

The journey to the electronic distribution of patient results continues and today, the team is pleased to provide an update on progress and next steps.

1.0 PRESENT SITUATION

Historically and still today, the patient results for laboratory and diagnostic imaging are being distributed by each RHA to the appropriate physicians via paper format.

A majority of the 200 eDOCSNL physicians have indicated they do not wish to receive patient results via paper format in addition to receiving them electronically through the EMR. Please note, currently not all patient results flow electronically to the provincial EMR. At Eastern Health for example, this includes molecular genetics, forensic pathology and autopsy reports and any scanned documents within the RHA.

In order to stop paper patient results, it requires a complete understanding of potential patient safety impacts and development of quality assurance processes.

Today, eDOCSNL is working with each of the Regional Health Authorities and TELUS Health to ensure all quality assessments (QA) have been completed. For example, Eastern Health has the validation process completed with lab results and are now in the Risk Assessment phase. The team is also ensuring ongoing QA processes are in place. Currently, Western Health is doing a validation of the results coming into one family physician's EMR and two Surgeons' EMRs against what is printed on paper. The lab component is complete and clinical documents are now the focus.

Two trials are ongoing in the Eastern Health and Western Health regions. This work will outline if additional QA processes or technical changes are required.

Once this is complete we will work with all Regional Health Authorities on the process of turning off paper results. The Regional Health Authorities are working to determine what exact results will be available electronically.

Please watch for updates in the monthly eDOCSNL newsletter. Once the eDOCSNL team is ready to turn paper distribution off, a more detailed communication will outline exactly what will continue to be delivered in paper format.

Thank you for your feedback to date and please continue to reach out.

eDOCSNL Team