

# Canadian Health Informatics Awards 2007 Award Recipients

## CHITTA

HEALTH DIVISION OF ITAC / DIVISION DE LA SANTÉ DE L'ACTI

**HealthCare Transformation Award**

**CLINICARE Corporation, Calgary, AB**



The HealthCare Transformation Award was established to recognize a for-profit healthcare ICT company that has fundamentally changed healthcare in Canada through the use of health informatics. The Award recipient must have demonstrated a successful healthcare transformation, within the last twelve months, at a provincial, regional, and/or local level with realized benefits for the client.

Important criteria such as the ability to replicate the transformation in other Canadian jurisdictions, as well as the measurability of the positive impact on patient outcomes, and/or the delivery of care are weighted heavily in the determination of awarding this honour.

Canada Health Infoway's vision is to develop an interoperable, pan-Canadian Electronic Health Record. Accessible by all qualified healthcare providers across Canada, this core data set is expected to save the healthcare system billions of dollars and greatly improve the quality of patient outcomes. The single-most important building block of this core data set is the patient medical record in the ambulatory setting. This year's award highlights the transformation by CLINICARE of a 55 physician group from an antiquated paper charting system to a State-of-the-Art Electronic Medical Record enabling future transfer of data to Infoway's EHR.

The Winnipeg Clinic is one of the largest multi-specialty clinics in Canada and offers a wide range of diagnostic facilities and health related services to its patients. With some 600,000 paper charts, the Clinic embraced the transition from paper to digital records to improve efficiency and patient care. The Clinic's physicians are now writing prescriptions in a module that tracks drug



*CHITTA Director Warren Brown (L) presents the Award to Dennis Niebergal, President & CEO of CLINICARE.*

contraindications, drug/allergy interactions and dosing. Prescriptions are printed out for the patient or faxed directly to the pharmacy and recorded electronically in the patient's record.

As archived charts are gradually entered into the EMR, they are being stored off site creating newly available space for additional examining rooms. After 6 months on the new EMR, physicians are sufficiently trained and are now realizing efficiencies through the use of the system, in both time and overhead costs. This technology is now scheduled to be implemented at a number of health centers throughout Canada in the near future. Through the deployment of this project, CLINICARE together with the Winnipeg Clinic have demonstrated to have fundamentally transformed healthcare in Canada through the use of health informatics.