

Communities of Practice Program Overview

The Communities of Practice (COP) Program is a model for sustainable community EMR adoption and optimization driven by the needs of the patients they serve; empowering physician leadership to model technology best practices and inform the provincial agenda for health care reform.

PITO has developed the Communities of Practice Program and set aside significant funding for the program to support groups of physicians undertaking collaborative projects to implement a common EMR to support the clinical needs in their community.

A Community of Practice is a group of practices or service area who collaborate to improve services to a shared patient population using a common EMR. This group or service area may share a physical building or be located across a community.

We are encouraging this model as we believe it is aligned with the interests of physicians and their patient's health care needs.

In other countries where the majority of the physicians are using an EMR, there is an increasing trend toward adopting the same EMR product within tightly knit communities of practice to support common goals.

Communities of Practice Program Goals

- Support for clinical initiatives such as local health networks that require greater ability to exchange patient information
- Easier movement for locums and out-of-hours coverage
- Increased physician collaboration and peer support
- Coordinated and collaborative implementations
- Encouragement and empowerment of physician leadership groups

Steps of Forming a Community of Practice

- **Application:** Define membership, vision & goals, and the Core Team
- **Formalize Governance:** Establish roles, decision making process, commitment from partners, financial support, communication methods, and administrative support
- **Define Initiatives:** Prioritize initiatives, validate them with the community and submit a project proposal
- **Establish Support Model:** Work with an assigned PITO Relationship Manager to set up User Groups and establish Peer Champions.

