



Sunrise Update

MARCH 31, 2017

Technology as a Tool Empowering Health Care

“The goal in Sunrise is not to be the best in technology. The goal is to be the best in health care.”

~ Sheranga Jayasinghe,
Director, Information
Technology



“We’ve see a huge increase (in Telehealth); probably 100 to 150% increase even in just the past three years.”

~ Chris Fisher, Regional
Telehealth Coordinator

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Technology is a tool. It is not a replacement for human interaction and is not meant to be; its purpose is to assist what is most likely a broken process and/or one which can be improved. Before new technology is introduced, the process is reviewed in terms of trying to understand what deficit is being addressed and understand how technology can contribute to improve efficiencies and productivity. The implementation of new technology is intended to streamline processes for the benefit of both the provider and the patient. The biggest impact of technology to the patient is having the right information at the right time at the right place. Results of tests are known almost instantaneously whereas, in the past, it might take days to get paper copies from one provider to another.

Technology allows for increased interaction. At the Yorkton Regional Health Centre, the bedside charting system is an excellent example of assisting both the patient and care provider to have a more streamlined experience. Health care providers can use the Patient Connect system to do their diagnosis and document right at the bedside while patients can use it as an entertainment system (including TV and internet for a small fee) to help improve their stay.

What does the future hold in terms of technology? No one can know for sure but an ultimate goal is a fully interactive electronic record. Along the same lines as a bank card, you would have your health information with you, and available, anywhere in the world updated in real time. Sunrise Health Region is helping with this process by working to make as much information electronic as possible.

Telehealth is a Saskatchewan Health program that provides medical consultation and services to rural or remote areas of the province through videoconference links. Health care professionals use Telehealth for appropriate clinical appointments, consults, follow-ups, meetings and education sessions; this includes provincial and interprovincial appointments. This type of delivery saves cost, valuable time and does not limit the services that we are able to provide. A patient can ask and has the right to request to utilize this service.

There are numerous locations throughout the region including sites in Canora, Esterhazy, Foam Lake, Ituna, Kamsack, Langenburg, Melville, Norquay, Preeceville and multiple locations in Yorkton so that patients can use the technology in the facility closest to their home. A variety of appointments can be handled through Telehealth including mental health and addictions appointments, oncology (with Sask Cancer Agency), nephrology and memory clinic appointments.

For more information on Telehealth, call Chris Fisher, Regional Telehealth Coordinator, at 306-786-0776 or email telehealth.clinic@shr.sk.ca.