

BACKGROUNDER

Electronic Medical Records (EMR) Progress in Canada

What is an EMR?

An [electronic medical record](#) (EMR) is a computer-based patient record, which details patient demographics, medical and drug history, and diagnostic information. EMRs often integrate with other software that manages activities such as billing and scheduling.

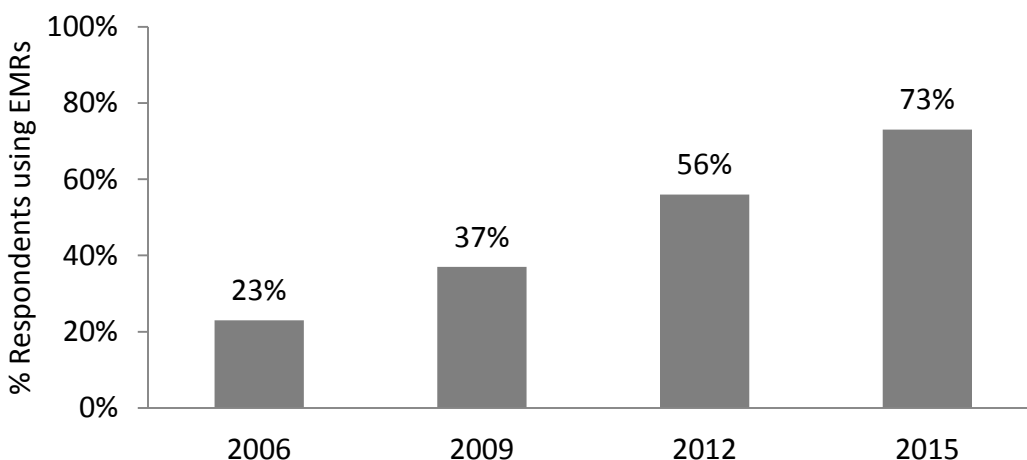
EMR Benefits

According to the Canada Health Infoway commissioned 2012 pan-Canadian study [The Emerging Benefits of Electronic Medical Record Use in Community-Based Care](#):

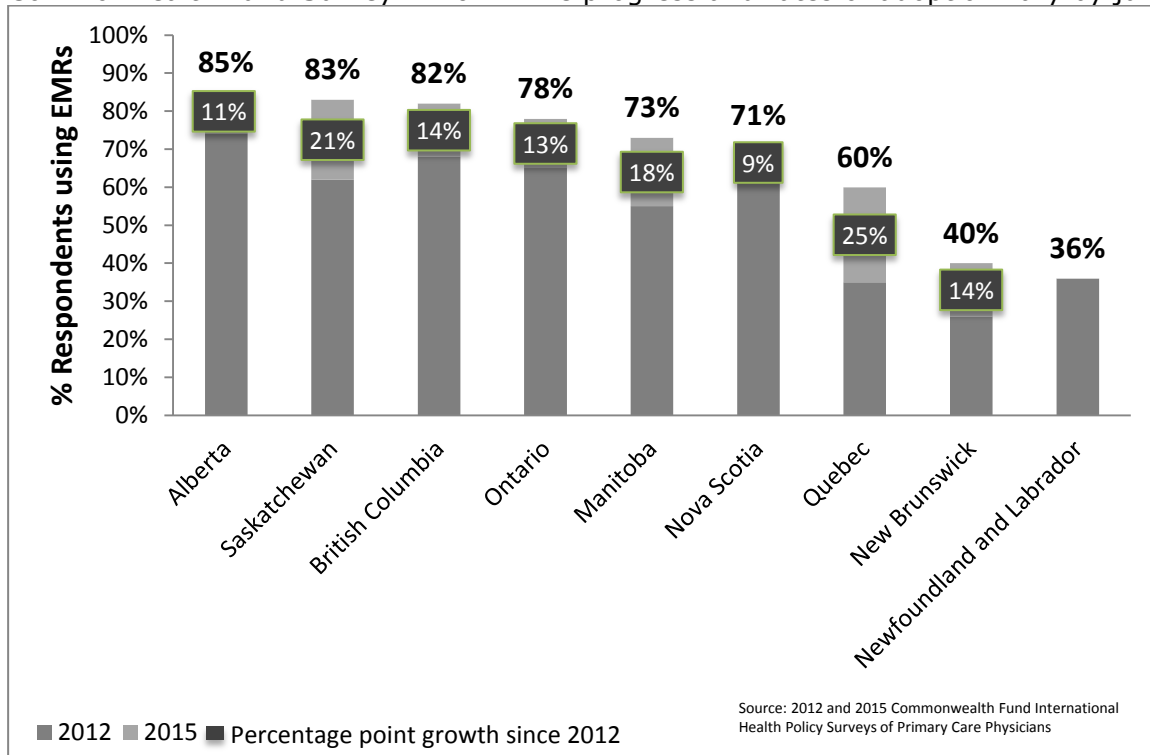
- Community-based practices using EMRs experience efficiencies in workflow, as staff time is redeployed
- EMR use results in health system level benefits, such as reduced numbers of duplicate tests and adverse drug events
- Advanced use of EMRs can improve health outcomes and patient safety through preventive care and chronic disease management
- EMR use supports improved interactions and communications among care team members and between providers and patients

EMR Growth in Canada

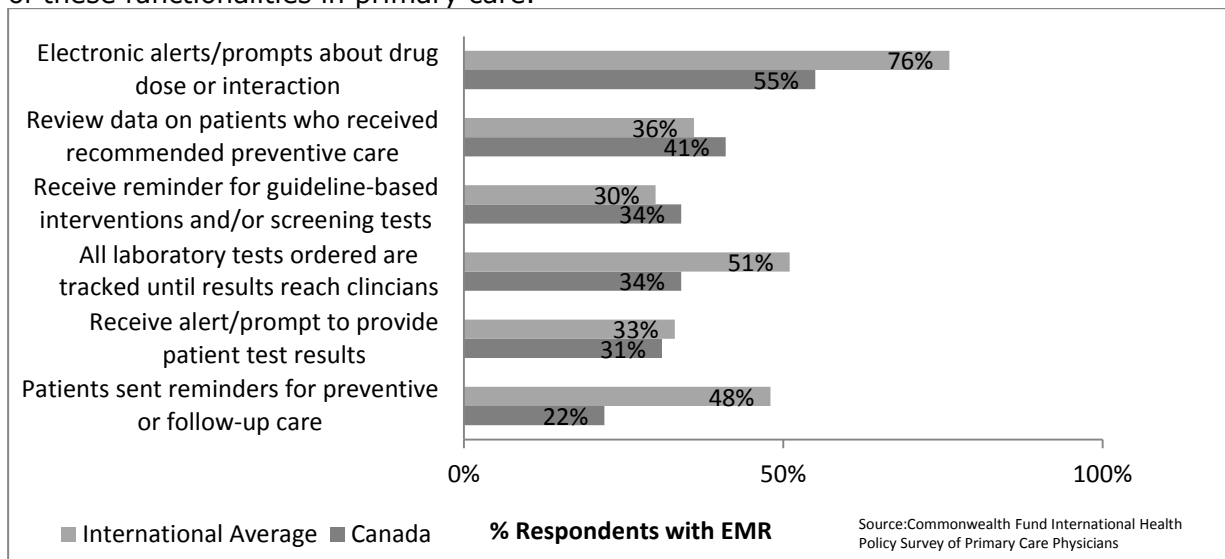
The [Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Primary Care Physicians](#) shows that EMR adoption and use in Canada has tripled since 2006.



Most provinces demonstrated growth in primary care EMR use since the previous Commonwealth Fund Survey in 2012. The progress and rates of adoption vary by jurisdiction.



Advanced EMR functionalities can be used to further support patient care. The survey findings show that Canada, and its international counterparts, have the opportunity to increase the use of these functionalities in primary care.



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