



## **EMR Connect Update from Island Health (July, 2020)**

EMR Connect is a web-based Island Health application that allows you to upload patient care documents directly and securely into Island Health's electronic health record, addressing a need brought forward by the VDFP's Transitions in Care and Patient Summaries team. We heard from community providers and specialists that they want to share more patient documentation with Island Health to support the transition of care for their patients. In response, as of June 24, 2020, we now have 38 new consult note types in the EMR Connect Application, for a total of 40 different types of documents available that can be uploaded directly into PowerChart (for a complete list, click [here](#)).

Sending patient information in to support transitions in care is more important now than ever. Here is a recent story from a family physician in Victoria:

*An 89-year-old female, living alone, tripped and fell. She arrived unaccompanied to the Emergency Department with a hip fracture. The attending Emergency Physician and consulting Orthopedic Surgeon both commented in their dictated notes that the patient was confused, agitated, and could not provide a medical history, and that attempts to contact family were unsuccessful. Upon receipt of an admission notification the next day, the patient's Family Physician completed a summary of her longitudinal health record and uploaded it via the EMR Connect Web Portal. It was accessed by the Hospitalist overseeing the patient's care, who thus learned that the patient had dementia, enabling better understanding of the extent to which the patient was competent to provide advance directives. Further, the longitudinal history enabled Radiology to determine that a compression fracture seen on X-ray was diagnosed previously and was not a new acute fracture in need of further investigation. Access to past diagnoses also assisted the Hospitalist in determining that the patient's hypertension was a chronic condition.*

Our EMR Connect team at Island Health is now offering EMR Connect engagement virtually. If you would like to request a refresher course or if you have any questions about EMR Connect, please contact us at [EMRConnectFeedback@viha.ca](mailto:EMRConnectFeedback@viha.ca)

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support to excellence in providing patient care.

EMR Connect Team