

Date:

Dear

Please know I am very concerned about the difficulties I experience in attempting to use, share and archive my personal health records.

The provincial and territorial medical professional Colleges permit fees for remitting a copy of any information and documents clinicians generate and store about them. This fee varies, in the range of each request costing \$20-30 dollars for the first 10-20 pages, and a per-page fee for additional pages.

Not all patients can afford what it costs to access their health records.

These charges can become a costly burden of hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars for individuals coping with chronic conditions, families and senior citizens on fixed incomes.

Relevant to my concern, this model of document release burdens not only on patients, it also impacts financial, staffing and even available billable hours for clinicians.

This is a drain on clinicians' ability to effectively treat their patients and earn a livelihood when they invest time and financial resources from the practice of medicine and instead bill patients for access to clinical information they have a legal right to.

Also, while collecting fees from patients, the costs to clinicians to fulfill these requests for patients looking for records are sometimes just as hard to manage, despite the cost recovery model of billing.

Setting aside the costs and lost time, imposing barriers to patient access affects patient care.

The third leading cause of death in Canada is medical error. Reliance on paper records, telephones and faxes often result in duplication of error or long delays in care when rescheduling or referring. The solution to all these issues is the same.

I am writing to ask for your commitment to author, support or vote for legislation mandating and regulating the use of universally interoperable electronic health records.

Interoperable records, such as those based on the internationally recognized FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) standard, can greatly reduce the costly burden of collecting and archiving patient records for the patients as well as all other parties involved in their care. The FHIR standard is already being mandated by the United States for any organizations seeking federal funding or service contracts for patient care, document storage and transfer.

Thank you for your commitment, and I look forward to receiving a response to you,

Sincerely,

Address:

Email:

Phone: