



Nomination

Mental health and addictions

Waterloo Wellington eHealth Think Tank

An Innovative eHealth Approach to Opioid Prescribing Developed Through a Multi-Organization “Think Tank” Collaboration



The Waterloo Wellington eHealth Think Tank formed as a means for multiple parties to share knowledge, tools and feedback for the continuation and development of more efficient Electronic Medical Record (EMR) tools. Collaborators include Guelph and East Wellington FHTs and the eHealth Centre of Excellence (eCE). In 2017, this collaborative approach broke new ground by partnering with Telus Health and developed the Opioid Toolbar to align with the ‘2017 Guideline for Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain’. This toolbar provides decision support based on current best practice to promote a safe and effective tapering of opioids through a practical and individualized patient-based approach.

The Opioid Toolbar enables treatment plans and patient education material to be individualized to patient needs, while ensuring it is written and formatted in a way that can be easily followed by the patient. Patient health literacy was considered in the development process and the materials were designed such that language and content is at a seventh-grade reading level. For providers already using Ocean Tablets, the Opioid Toolbar features screening questionnaires that can be completed by the patient in the waiting room. In evaluating the impact of the tool with Dr. Samson, real non-identifiable patient data was collected and assessed.