Family Medicine EMR Data
"Charts Viewed" equals Work

On October 4th, I wrote about [a memo highlighting the errant ways in which the OMA Board imposed revisions to CANDI](#) that especially affected Family Medicine. On October 22nd, I wrote [a further memo clarifying misperceptions about FHOs](#).

In those memos, I referred to [a process by which EMR data can be extracted](#) to prove the number of days that family physicians are on their EMRs working.

Some have criticized this approach, arguing that simply opening an EMR chart does not necessarily mean that true work was being done.

I maintain that whenever a physician opens a EMR chart, it is related to patient care and not simply "for the fun of it." To prove my case, I have explored the data even further.

Using the data extraction method for "Patient Viewings" described above, EMR data proves that I viewed patient charts on 310 unique days throughout the 2017 year.

I have since extracted more granular data from my EMR, and limited it to the specific tasks of:
- *Writing a progress note.*
- *Sending a letter.*
- *Any "Treatment" (medication prescription or immunization)*
- *Setting a "Pending Test" reminder (indicating that a referral or investigation was ordered).*
- *Charting with a "Custom Form" (PDF-like tools in TELUS EMR).*
- *Reviewing lab data.*
- *Documenting a patient Refused an Intervention.*
- *Sending or addressing a message related to the patient care.*
- *Printing or Faxing Prescriptions.*

When the data is filtered down to just these specific tasks, the outcome remains exactly the same: this specific work was performed on 310 unique days in 2017.

Therefore, extracting EMR data for "Patient Viewings" (EMR charts viewed) is a precisely accurate surrogate indicator for calculating the number of days worked.

What is even more to the point: in 2017 I only billed OHIP on 206 days compared to the 310 days I have documented proof that I was actually working.

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