

From abstract to article

When you are looking for information on a clinical or research question, one of the best and most commonly used resources is MEDLINE. It is the world's largest bibliographic database of biomedical literature, created and maintained by the US National Library of Medicine. You can search MEDLINE using a variety of interfaces, including the publically available PubMed (www.pubmed.gov). However, locating abstracts of articles is just the first step. How do you access full text articles? PubMed displays both abstracts of articles and links to free articles, and College members can access an additional

2000 licensed journals from three major vendors—Elsevier, EBSCO, and Ovid—by using the College library's web site as an avenue to PubMed. How do you do this? On the library's home page (cpsbc.ca/library) select "Search Medline, etc" and then select "Medline via PubMed with full text articles." After logging in you will be directed to the PubMed site. Perform your search and, after you identify relevant citations, display the citations in the "Abstract" mode and look for an icon indicating that the article is either free or is provided by the College. The latter is identified by this blue button.



Of course, some of the articles of interest will not be part of the library's electronic subscriptions. Acquiring the full article is still very likely and generally quite fast. Simply select the citation of the article you want and e-mail it to the College library (medlib@mls.cpsbc.ca) or any other library with which you have an affiliation using the e-mail function from the "Send to" drop-down menu. Wherever possible, our staff will e-mail copies from in-house or local sources often within 24 hours.

—Karen MacDonell

—Robert Melrose

—Judy Neill

College Librarians

personal view

Continued from page 287

lab results from all of its hospitals and labs but also diagnostic imaging reports and hospital transcribed reports (discharge, operative, and consult reports). Dr McMahan suggests that only one EMR has connected to Interior Health's interface. In fact, at the time of writing, seven EMR systems had been connected to the Interior Health interface and four more are in progress. Out of the five PITO-qualified vendors, four have already connected to the Interior Health interface and the fifth is in final testing. The latest details can be found at www.interiorhealth.ca/information.aspx?id=2808.

Regarding EMR uptake, Dr McMahan voiced concern that "BC doctors are not exactly beating a path to the EMR door"; however, the enrollment to date would suggest otherwise. By April of this year 2000 physicians had enrolled in the PITO program to implement an EMR, already reaching the target set for the end of the year, and the program has been oversubscribed in every enrollment to date.

I am pleased to confirm that the design of the PITO program and the determination of the functionality required of the PITO-qualified EMRs did indeed follow the approach that

Dr McMahan and Mr Littlejohn suggest by involving a large group of BC physicians and extensive conformance testing prior to the first pilot implementations. With the program now well underway it is continually refined with the input of over 40 actively involved physician peer champions and the lessons gleaned as every physician implements.

—Jeremy Smith

PITO Program Director