

Bringing value to healthcare through ambulatory services

Description

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ABSTRACT: More integrated ambulatory care services are a strategy that may result in more efficient and higher quality outcomes to address the escalating costs of healthcare in Canada. With an estimate of over 24 million visits per year, ambulatory care has become one of the largest services for patients. It is not known how to best drive ongoing integration amongst ambulatory care services. In this paper, we discuss strategies for driving integration of ambulatory care services into our current healthcare environment. We argue that funding, providing incentives to flow patients into ambulatory care settings and developing a robust standardized interprovincial data collection and analysis process can be used to drive this integration. Research is needed to gain insight on how to improve quality of care and reduce costs through integrated ambulatory care.

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