

Eliminate Low-Value Imaging via Clinical Decision Support

Integrating Evidence-Based Order Appropriateness into EMR Systems

Navigating complex, rapidly evolving imaging guidelines can be challenging for referring physicians at the point of care. Without integrated decision-support tools, patients can experience delays due to initial requests for less optimal imaging modalities or missing clinical information.

CORE POLICY ASK

\$50 Million over 5 years to integrate CDS tools directly into Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems nationwide.

What is Clinical Decision Support (CDS)?

Clinical Decision Support (CDS) systems integrate evidence-based clinical imaging guidelines directly into Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) at the point of care. When a physician orders an imaging scan, the CDS engine provides real-time, tailored recommendations for the referring physician to ensure the patient receives the most clinically appropriate test.

Key Benefits for Canada's Healthcare System:

- **Unlocks Existing Capacity:** Diverting unnecessary scans frees up thousands of machine-hours annually for high-priority CT and MRI exams without requiring new physical infrastructure.
- **Reduces Wait Times:** Streamlines triage and referral pathways so urgent cases are prioritized faster.
- **Reduces Administrative Friction:** Eliminates delay-causing back-and-forth communication between radiologists and referring doctors over inappropriate scan requests.

Integrating CDS nationwide is a cost-effective digital infrastructure investment that maximizes existing capacity, aligns with data interoperability initiatives (such as Bill S-5), and delivers better, faster care to Canadians.

CDS Operationalizes Bill S-5

Bill S-5 (Connected Care for Canadians Act) builds the digital highway by mandating open health data standards and outlawing vendor data-blocking. Clinical Decision Support (CDS) is the high-value vehicle that runs on it.

While Bill S-5 legally requires EMR systems to talk to each other, CDS turns that connectivity into immediate frontline productivity. Embedded directly into primary care EMRs, CDS delivers real-time, evidence-based referral guidance at the exact moment a doctor orders a scan – instantly transforming a technical interoperability mandate into fewer duplicate tests, faster diagnoses, and reduced wait times for Canadian patients.

CDS-Enabled Referrals



Clinician orders

Primary care and referring clinicians assess their patients and request imaging



CDS guidance

CDS guidance triages decisions based on national guidelines developed by experts



Appropriate scan

Patients receive the most appropriate scan



Reduced wait times