

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF EASTERN ONTARIO

KEY POINTS

PRIVACY CONCERNS
PREVENTED COLLECTION
OF VALUABLE PHARMACY
DATA

HIPAA SAFE HARBOUR
DID NOT PROVIDE THE
NEEDED DATA QUALITY

AUTOMATED
DE-IDENTIFICATION
SATISFIED PRIVACY
REQUIREMENTS AND
PROVIDED NEEDED DATA

SOFTWARE WAS
INTEGRATED INTO
EXISTING DATA
COLLECTION PROCESS

PHARMACY DATA FROM
CANADIAN PEDIATRIC
HOSPITALS WILL
PROVIDE PREVIOUSLY
UNAVAILABLE CLINICAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE
INSIGHT

Canadian pediatric hospital pharmacists have wanted for a long time the ability to benchmark drug utilization across pediatric hospitals. When a private data-mining company offered to develop and manage such a system, privacy concerns became the primary stumbling block. Hospitals were hesitant to submit their patients' pharmacy data until they were provided assurances that the data could not be used to re-identify any patient. The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), a leading Canadian pediatric center, approached Privacy Analytics for a solution. Director of Pharmacy, Dr. Regis Vaillancourt, used the Privacy Analytics tools to determine the subset of data that could be safely released while maintaining the information needed for benchmarking.

"This tool made the intangible privacy risks much more concrete and easier to manage."

Dr. Regis Vaillancourt, Director of Pharmacy, CHEO

Unlike manual de-identification approaches, such as HIPAA safe harbour, the Privacy Analytics de-identification software provided the needed data accuracy. Safe harbour would have rendered the data useless for benchmarking. When integrated at a hospital, the software ensures that all information sent externally is properly de-identified. Working with Privacy Analytics, CHEO and other Canadian pediatric centers will now be able to benchmark drug utilization while complying with privacy requirements.

Visit www.privacyanalytics.ca for more information.

