



## St. Joseph's implements Epic to join elite circle of digital health leaders

**HAMILTON, ON,** – In the early morning hours of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) joined ranks with the top 2% of Canadian healthcare providers who have adopted cutting-edge systems for digitizing health information. The software designed by Epic is used in many of the world's leading hospitals.

The new system furthers St. Joseph's research capabilities by simplifying data collection and collation, which in turn will bring findings into practice more rapidly. It also expands St. Joseph's research community, linking it to a network of global health leaders that include The Cleveland Clinic and Kaiser Permanente, organizations that have also selected Epic as their digital system of choice. Patients, clinicians and learners will reap the benefits of this new avenue for shared knowledge.

"Not only do they share documents and information, they share thoughts about improving health care. They share challenges," said Dr. Chris Hayes, Chief Medical Information Officer, SJHH.

"You can connect with people at all these different healthcare sites who have Epic and say, 'How did you address this issue? What process did you use?'"

SJHH catapulted to a Level 6 on the Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) ranking, on a scale that goes to 7. Only 2 per cent of Canadian hospitals are today at a Level 6 or 7.

St. Joseph's named the system "Dovetale" to convey the joining of a patient's story with technology to provide one source of information for all members of a healthcare team.

Dovetale delivers state-of-the-art record management, improves the safety of patient care and enhances the work of those caring for patients by granting instant updates to medical histories and real-time diagnostic information. Clinical staff now have at-the bedside access through handheld devices, tablets and laptop computer stations on wheels. File folders, loose leaf paper and hand-written notations are a thing of the past.

iPhones replace traditional pagers for porters: in turn, patient transfers for diagnostic testing are easily communicated via an iPhone app; nurses now use the Photos app to document the healing process of patient wounds.

"St. Joseph's was founded on providing high quality, compassionate care to those who are unwell. We have a responsibility to uphold that legacy by adding to it the best available technology to strengthen our standard of care and enhance the other key elements of our mission, research and education in a safe and secure way," said Dr. David Higgins, President, SJHH.

For more information, visit our website [stjoes.ca/dovetale](http://stjoes.ca/dovetale)

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