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## Health Department launches Electronic Medical Records

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A first for local health departments, Multnomah County announced it went “live” with an Electronic Medical Records system (EMR). The EMR was launched at their North Portland Health Center and has transitioned the clinic from paper records to a computer-based system. The project is a collaboration with Oregon Community Health Information Network (OCHIN) and uses the EpicCare system from Epic Systems Corporation.

The clinical design team included health care providers, clinic manager, and medical records specialist. Their work guided the design of an EMR product which could be customized to fit any of the OCHIN partner clinics, irrespective of size and urban or rural location.

According to Vanetta Abdellatif, Director of Integrated Clinical Services, “We need to increase our use of technology to deliver better patient care and protect patient records as evidenced by the recent loss of public health care infrastructure in the Gulf States due to hurricane Katrina.”