

Electronic chart is on-line !

Princess Margaret Hospital department of Dental Oncology, Ocular and Maxillofacial Prosthetics sees almost 1200 new patients per year and 12,000 patient visits per year. This used to result in the creation of 1200 patient charts each year. These charts need to be stored for 10 years and also had to be kept handy to the department. As a result we had literally thousands of patient charts. Recognizing this as a problem two staff Dr. Peter Son and Mary Jane Gutierrez did some foot work and identified two possible candidate companies that would be suitable for our clinic. Ultimately the staff as a group thought that a product by a

After years of being drowned in paper a program called Abelent was chosen. Abelent is a company based in southern Ontario. It provides 24/7 support and has now been placed in all rooms. From a patients standpoint it allows secure and permanent storage of patient information on-site. It also allows us to streamline patient appointments and mercifully, because it has the capability of allowing direct entry of chart notes means nobody is forced to decipher another dentists hand-writing. Each practitioner can access the program in the dental operatory to see patient photographs, x-rays, and the patients dental record. In addition, once a patient has checked in with reception their progress through the clinic can be tracked. This allows patients to be seen in a timely fashion and expedites their booking. Just as importantly, it allows us to do away with paper charts which is eco-friendly and far more efficient. Ultimately we will not have to chase any paper charts down – we can access any dental patient record with a few keystrokes on a computer keyboard. Through the continued efforts of our dedicated staff we have already removed approximately 3000 paper charts to off-site storage.

Two monitors allow the dentist to see the x-ray of his next patient as well as the patients that have checked in and are waiting to be seen.

The database can be used with the x-ray viewer to allow patients to see their own record and for patient education purposes. Both the dentist and the preventive dental assistant can chart the patient and follow the progress of the appointment.

