

# Electronic Medical Record

...improving patient care, ensuring patient safety

## long-term *Benefits*

**Speed.** As soon as your record is completed during a given visit, it is instantly available to caregivers across CentraCare Health System.

**Security.** Your information remains confidential and only staff who need to view the information have access to it.

**Patient safety.** The Electronic Medical Record (EMR) can prevent errors in prescribing medications and can remind physicians of current treatment guidelines. Prescriptions are entered directly into the computer by the health care provider, rather than written, which greatly reduces the potential for any errors or delays from illegible handwriting.

**Convenience.** Prescriptions can be transmitted instantly to your pharmacy. Office visit summaries can be printed before you leave. When the system is fully operational in a few years, you will be able to securely view most of your information online.

**Communication.** The system will enhance the physicians' ability to consult with colleagues at different sites.

## short-term *What to expect*

### **Extra people present during your visit.**

While our staff are learning the new system, an EMR expert may accompany the health care provider to assist with computer-related questions during the patient visit. The EMR expert also will help to ensure that all information remains confidential.

**Longer appointment times.** During this transitional time, appointments may take longer. That is because we need to confirm the accuracy of your information upfront and our providers are getting used to entering your health information directly into the computer during the appointment. However, we are confident that the improvements in medical quality and safety will be worth the temporary inconvenience.

**Front desk registration.** All patients will need to register at the front desk, including physical therapy. Exceptions can be made for patients who need to park behind the hospital due to physical limitations.



*St. Michael's Hospital*