

HEALTH HERALD

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E-Care goes live at May Pen Hospital

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS A FIRST FOR JAMAICA

JAMAICA'S Electronic Health Records (EHR) System is now active at the May Pen Hospital, following a launch ceremony held on January 11 at the facility.

Dubbed 'E-Care', the system is part of a public health overhaul that modernises service delivery through the implementation of digital health records.

This sees the switch to a paperless system for patient records with real-time access to medical information. It will allow for the smooth upload and sharing of these records among healthcare professionals by way of electronic devices.

"This linking of health records means that cross-matching and information sharing between health centres and hospitals will now be possible," said Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon.



Christopher Tufton.

The conversion of paper-based records is part of the Ministry's Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP) and is being financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to the tune of US\$5 million dollars in the first phase.

Among the results of the implementation will be, "significant savings for the patients as test results become more readily available, and the capture of critical health information data that will assist in the formulation of better evidence-based policymaking and programme design," the Minister continued.

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Modernisation for Spanish Town Hospital



MEDICAL services at the Spanish Town Hospital are set to be transformed with the redevelopment of the 430-bed facility, marked Tuesday (January 16) by the ground breaking ceremony held on the hospital's grounds.

The renovation works, valued at some \$5.5 billion Jamaican dollars, will see the building of a state-of-the-art, six-storey facility spanning more than 17,000 square metres.

As a result, patient care delivery at the facility will expand to new services including urology, oncology, cardiology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, and psychiatry.

It will be equipped with cutting-edge technology including electronic access to patient medical records.

The move is in keeping with making available reliable and modern infrastructure for health service delivery, a goal articulated in the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Vision For Health 2030 Ten-Year Strategic Plan.

"The Government of Jamaica is determined to transform the health system for patients and their families, but also, critically, for the health staff who make it possible to deliver care to the many thousands who visit this and other facilities islandwide," said Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton.

"The works slated for Spanish Town Hospital, under the Health Systems Strengthening Programme, which brings us here today, helps us to make that transformation," the Minister continued.

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61 more persons trained in problem management for communities

AN additional 61 Problem Management Plus (PM+) Providers graduated earlier today, taking the total number of graduates to 271, as the Ministry of Health & Wellness continues to bolster community-based mental wellness interventions islandwide.

The additional 61 volunteers, who are from community- and faith-based organisations, include professionals such as hairdressers and barbers, teachers, security officers, community health aides, nurses, pastors, guidance counsellors, and social workers.

Of the 61 who graduated from the programme today, in a ceremony held at the Sago Palm Hotel in Ocho Rios, there were 55 PM+ providers and six (6) supervisors. That takes the total number of Providers to 217 and supervisors to 54.



Photos above: Graduates of Problem Management Plus are all smiles as they show off their certificates.

Photo Below: Dr. Kevin Goulbourne, Director of Mental Health & Substance Use, in discussion with Mrs. Petre Williams-Raynor, Manager of PR & Communications and MC at the graduation ceremony, held on January 18 in St. Ann.

PM+ is designed to bring mental health support services to communities, meeting people where they are, while providing them with the space and the tools to overcome adversity that can impact their mental wellness.

For more information on PM+ and/or to access mental wellness support, call the Ministry's Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Helpline at 888-NEW-LIFE (888-639-5433).

State-of-the-Art facility for Spanish Town



Above: Participants, including Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie (at right, first row), Chief Medical Officer, at the official contract signing and groundbreaking ceremony for the Spanish Town Hospital's redevelopment on January 16.

Below: The deal is inked for the beginning of redevelopment work at the Spanish Town Hospital.

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Redevelopment of the Spanish Town Hospital is being implemented by the Government of Jamaica with financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

A total of USD \$148 million dollars has been allocated for the Health Systems Strengthening Programme, of which the Government of Jamaica has committed USD \$87 million dollars.

Spanish Town Hospital – the largest ‘type B’ facility in the island, will receive the largest investment in infrastructure works.

The new building will include an Accident and Emergency Wing on its ground floor, alongside an Ambulance Bay; Triage and Consultation rooms; and lounge areas for medical staff.



Electronic health records a first for Jamaica

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With built-in security measures such as data encryption, health information systems like 'E-Care' offer a greater level of safety and privacy for patient's personal data.

"The implementation of this contract comes at a time when there is urgent need for enhanced integration of health systems and is being undertaken on the basis of a strategy focused on governance and capacity building, data management and information technologies, information and knowledge management for health analysis," Dr. Tufton explained.

The move, a first for Jamaica, is expected to further improve wait times, eliminate repeat diagnoses and increase service satisfaction. Through its 'one patient, one record' philosophy, healthcare providers and facilities will have greater opportunity to collaborate in the delivery of care, through, for example, a seamless connection of critical diagnostic imaging that will enable healthcare professionals to see x-rays and CT scans on computers and tablets provided within the facilities.

The introduction of electronic health records comes with the provision of managed network services to support the upscaling of public health ICT infrastructure.

The integrated health system is being implemented by the UK firm, The Phoenix Partnership (TPP), the leading global provider of digital health technology. The Cabinet-approved contract includes a 15-year support period with the addition of a patient-centric mobile health app.



Above: Participants at the recent EHR launch event at May Pen Hospital in Clarendon.

Below: Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Chris Tufton (right) greets members of the TPP team at the launch event for the EHR.



Photo highlights on Pages 6 & 7.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS: EHR LAUNCH



The EHR is here!



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS: EHR LAUNCH



The EHR is here!



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