The Evolving Alberta Health Information System FAQs

Alberta Health **Services**
Primary Health Care

ALBERTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta

ALBERTA COLLEGE of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

What is Connect Care?

Connect Care is a provincial initiative of Alberta Health Services to bridge information, healthcare teams and patients. The foundation of Connect Care is a common clinical information system (CIS) that is being developed in partnership with Epic. Connect Care will replace many of the 1,300 health information systems currently in place across Alberta Health Services (AHS) and affiliated organizations to create a single access point for the health information they manage. Connect Care will improve patient and provider experiences by ensuring informational continuity within AHS, and lead to better overall system efficiency and health by reducing the number of individual information systems in operation. Connect Care development is an on-going process. Future editions of this newsletter will provide further updates on the deployment of this transformational health system improvement project.

What is CII/CPAR?

Informational continuity is foundational for a modern healthcare system where information follows the patient and health professional are fully informed to make decisions and coordinate care: the right information to the right provider.

CII/CPAR is the chosen vehicle to integrate community EMRs with two-way data flow. It is a joint project between the AMA, Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services.

Community Information Integration **(CII)** is a system that transfers select patient information between community Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) and other members of the patient's care team through Alberta Netcare. The Central Patient Attachment Registry **(CPAR)** is a provincial system that captures the confirmed relationship of a primary provider and their paneled patients. Together, CII and CPAR foster health-system integration and improved continuity of care that are essential and foundational change elements in the implementation of the Patient's Medical Home.

Will Connect Care replace Netcare?

No. Alberta Netcare will continue to provide access to key patient health information. In fact, Netcare will be enhanced by additional provincially standardized information, sourced from Connect Care, such as emergency department summaries and in-hospital consultations. Netcare will also be enhanced with new information from CPAR/CII with community encounters via the Community Encounter Digest in the new Community folder and with community consultation reports from CII.

Will I still receive results into my Community EMR?

Results will be delivered very much the way they are now. In fact, you may receive more information directly into your EMR via eDelivery than you did before, without the need to scan it or sort faxes. There may be some slight differences, and these differences will be the subject of a separate communication.

Who is driving each project and why are they rolling out at the same time?

AHS will use Connect Care both to improve the way AHS delivers healthcare and to stabilize the way that AHS uses and stores health care information. Connect Care will also replace upwards of 1,300 other individual information systems, many of which are past the end of their useful lifespan.

CII/CPAR is a joint project between the AMA, Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services and is the chosen vehicle to integrate community EMRs with two-way data flow to Alberta Netcare. As Connect Care is deployed, it will be available to providers where AHS is accountable for the record of care, and CII/CPAR will help to ensure that information from the community is available to Connect Care, and vice versa.

Both projects work towards the same goal of promoting informational continuity across the province to provide better care for Albertans.
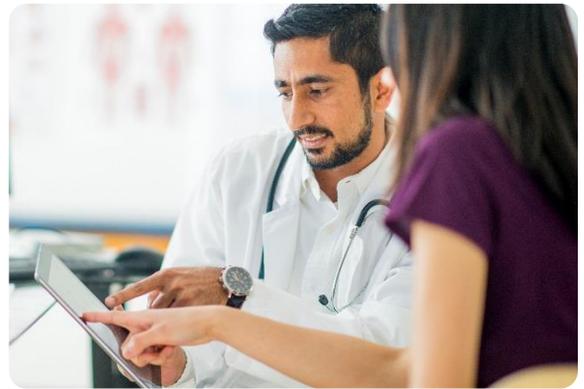
How are CII/CPAR, Connect Care and Netcare related?

Enhancements to Alberta Netcare, in conjunction with the CII and CPAR initiatives, will enable broader opportunities for sharing information between Connect Care and community EMRs, such as Emergency Department patient admission and discharge notifications. Over time, the connections between these systems will provide more seamless access to information across the health system. As CPAR uptake increases and it is integrated with Connect Care, it will be a dynamic, regularly updated source of information to identify a patient's primary care provider.

Do I have to use Connect Care?

If you are providing health services where AHS holds legal record of care, you will use Connect Care. If you are providing healthcare services using a community EMR and AHS does not hold the legal record of care, you will continue to use that EMR and you can choose to enhance your practice with information from the Connect Care Provider Portal.

More information about the Connect Care Provider Portal will be available soon.

Will this create multiple charts for a patient, and how will I know where to find what?

Patient information will continue to reside in your community EMR, in Netcare, and in Connect Care, but there will be more common information available between them. A large portion of information will be available within Netcare, but details of encounters recorded in Connect Care will be available via its provider portal. In most cases, information from non-AHS community locations will be found in Netcare.

AHS and Alberta Health expect that one-click access to Connect Care from Netcare and vice versa, maintaining the patient context, will be available as of Wave 1 in November 2019 or shortly thereafter.

Will there be duplication between CII/CPAR and Connect Care?

While work continues on Connect Care, Alberta Netcare and CII/CPAR initiatives, the Alberta government has launched an independent review of the province's health information systems to ensure they support coordinated high-quality care and avoid duplication. A final report is due to government by end of year.

Learn more about Connect Care

AHS Connect Care:

For community physicians:
http://ahs.ca/ccproviderbridge

General information:
https://www.ahs.ca/info/cis.aspx

Email: ccproviderbridge@ahs.ca

Phone: *Coming soon!*

Alberta Netcare:

http://www.albertanetcare.ca

CII/CPAR:
http://www.topalbertadoctors.org/CII-CPAR
http://www.albertanetcare.ca/learningcentre/CII.htm
http://www.albertanetcare.ca/learningcentre/CPAR.htm