Alberta
Netcare
ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

Alberta

Alberta Netcare Portal 2006 Pilot Underway

In 24 sites around the province, more than 400 doctors, nurses, pharmacists and heath region staff will be piloting the new Alberta Netcare Portal 2006 provincial electronic health record. Alberta Cancer Board, along with Capital, Calgary, Aspen and Northern Lights health regions have signed on to be the first to take advantage of the new technology and patient information.

The new system will look quite familiar to users in Capital Health, but markedly different for users in all other parts of the province.

"This new technology will keep Alberta at the forefront in leading-edge technology supporting a health care system considered one of the best in the country," said Iris Evans, Minister of Health and Wellness.

The new Portal 2006 is more intuitive and easier to access. As well, improvements to Alberta's Electronic Health Record will give physicians across the province access to text reports of diagnostic imaging results for the first time. Diagnostic images will be accessible early in 2007, but for now, health professionals will be able to access the detailed analysis of results.

Rest of Province starts to go "live" in July

Those in the pilot will provide feedback on Alberta Netcare Portal 2006 until the end of May and plans are underway to deploy across the province starting in early July. If you are interested in signing up, please contact the Alberta Netcare Deployment Team at **(780) 412-9970** in Edmonton or **1-866-756-2647** toll-free.

Deployment teams will be traveling across the province helping health professionals either switch from the Alberta Netcare Portal 2004 to Portal 2006, or to enrol in Alberta Netcare for the first time. There is no charge to access Alberta Netcare or to receive training and support to change workflow.

DR. TREVOR BYERS WAS THE FIRST DOCTOR TO GO LIVE IN THE PROVINCE.

MORE LAB TEST RESULTS AVAILABLE

Progress continues on making lab test results available through Alberta Netcare. More than **55 per cent** of lab test results conducted in the province are now available electronically with **85 per cent** expected to be available this summer.

Alberta's pharmacists can now access lab test results for the first time through Alberta Netcare, enabling them to provide more comprehensive advice to their clients about their prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.

DID YOU KNOW?

Recent studies in Canada found that for every 1000 laboratory and radiology tests performed, up to 150 are unnecessary and for every 1000 patient visits with a specialist, specialists received no patient information for 680 of those visits. Alberta Netcare helps bridge the information gaps that compromise the quality and productivity of Alberta's health care system.

ALBERTA NETCARE PROGRESS

Approximately 570,000 Albertans have health information on the system, and we are on track to achieve the goal of having all Albertans on board by 2008.

• More than 17,000 health care providers are registered to use Alberta Netcare.

• Alberta Netcare includes: lab test results, prescriptions, allergies and intolerances, and now diagnostic imaging text results (with images following in 2007).

Alberta commits new funds

The Alberta government demonstrated its commitment to the electronic health record, announcing an additional $116-million in provincial funding in March to support system upgrades and improvements.

The announcement of this additional funding caps a busy and successful year for Alberta Netcare, in which the new, more intuitive Alberta Netcare Portal 2006 goes live and begins to roll out across the province.

This new funding will support the health regions in acquiring new hardware for provincial systems and software to update systems such as inpatient and ambulatory care health information systems.

IRIS EVANS, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS, ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ALBERTA NETCARE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

REGIONAL NEWS

ALBERTA NETCARE INCLUDES INITIATIVES LED BY THE REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES. EACH ISSUE, WE WILL BRING YOU UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE PROVINCE.

PAT RYAN – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RSHIP AND DR. JEFF HANKINSON - BARRHEAD, ALBERTA - ASPEN REGIONAL HEALTH.

The Regional Shared Health Information Program (RSHIP) is a collaboration between seven of Alberta's nine regional health authorities. In line with Alberta's Third Way, the RSHIP partners are cooperating to develop a single, integrated, electronic medical record for over one million Albertans. The RSHIP health region partners are Aspen Regional Health, Chinook Health Region, David Thompson Regional Health Authority, East Central Health, Northern Lights Health Authority, Palliser Health Region, and Peace Country Health.

News From RSHIP

Integration and Improvement

Through a unique partnership called the Regional Shared Health Information Program (RSHIP), seven of Alberta's health regions are gearing up to implement advanced clinical systems (ACS) that will reduce medical errors, improve patient care, and assist health care professionals in their work.

Dr. Jeff Hankinson, Medical Director West, Aspen Regional Health, has previewed the ACS, and he likes what he sees. "It will ultimately make for better medicine," said Dr. Hankinson. "The long-term benefits will be in smoother medical care, hopefully better long-term management of chronic diseases, less laboratory and diagnostic testing duplication, more portability, more reliable information, and a bigger picture for somebody who is trying to put together a difficult to solve problem."

Implementation of the advanced clinical systems will begin next year and consist of 10 modules that are integrated and talk to one another. The modules are:

• Emergency Department Management
• Operating Room Management
• Patient Care System
• Bedside Medication Verification
• Physician Care Manager
• Continuing Care (Home Care)
• Continuing Care (Facility)
• Public Health: Immunization & Adverse Events
• Mental Health.

"If I see somebody sick in my office and I send them to the hospital, I want their medical information – both new and historical – readily accessible, so an integrated product is going to be quite useful," said Dr. Hankinson.

POSP REACHES ANOTHER MILESTONE

A record 346 physicians took advantage of the last opportunity to join Phase 2 of the Physician Office System Program. Now, 60% of Alberta physicians are using information technology in their practices, making Alberta one of the leading jurisdictions in physician automation, world-wide.

The 3,337 physicians in the program are practising in 1,062 clinics across the province. These physicians come from all health regions, represent a mix of specialties and roughly mirror the demographic breakdown of the physician population in Alberta. Fully 82% of these physicians are using POSP support to move from paper charting to electronic medical records.

While POSP Phase 2 ended on March 31, 2006, all physicians accepted into the program will continue to receive 48 months of funding and have access to a range of change management services and technical supports.

To find out more:

• Visit the website at **www.posp.ab.ca**
• Phone 780.452.1616 or toll free 1.866.817.3875
• Email **posp@albertadoctors.org**

News from Capital Health

Capital Health Gives Northern Lights Health Region Sneak Preview of Alberta Netcare

In February, Capital Health trained approximately 20 medical staff at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre in Fort McMurray on Capital netCARE, the basis of the new provincial EHR. This is the first time health care providers outside the Capital Health region were given access to its regional electronic health record.

Fort McMurray, located in the Northern Lights Health Region, is a major referral area for Capital Health. Residents who live in the Capital region and work in Fort McMurray often seek treatment when in either region although their patient records have remained with the region providing care.

"Physicians in both regions see many of the same patients, so it makes sense for them to see the patient's record, including lab results, X-rays and hospital discharge summaries," says Sheila Weatherill, Capital Health President and CEO. "We know from using Capital netCARE throughout our region for the past two years that instant access to up-to-date information enhances patient safety, improves the quality of care, and reduces the need for duplicate tests."

Sharing diagnostic images such as CT scans over secure networks is just one way to reduce repeat tests and travel between the cities. Bernie Blais, CEO of Northern Lights Health Region, says: "This is what it's all about: leveraging information systems to make information available in real time."

News from Calgary Health Region

The Electronic Health Record initiative at the Calgary Health Region will make significant progress over the coming months. Starting in April, the Banff Mineral Springs Hospital and the Strathmore Hospital will be the first Region sites to receive Alberta Netcare Portal 2006 as part of the limited production rollout scheduled this spring. Health care providers at both sites will be able to access province-wide patient information. This is especially helpful for the hospital in Banff where they treat a higher than usual number of patients from outside the Calgary Health Region due to the large tourist population and specialty surgical units that operate at that site.

In addition to the Alberta Netcare Portal 2006 rollout, the Region is ramping up for the large-scale implementation of the second phase of the Patient Care Information System at the Region's four urban acute care hospitals (Rockyview General Hospital, Peter Lougheed Centre, Foothills Medical Centre and the Alberta Children's Hospital).

Over the next eight months, 2000 physicians, 9000 nurses and hundreds of allied health professionals and admitting staff that work at the Region's urban acute care sites will be trained to use the Patient Care Information System.
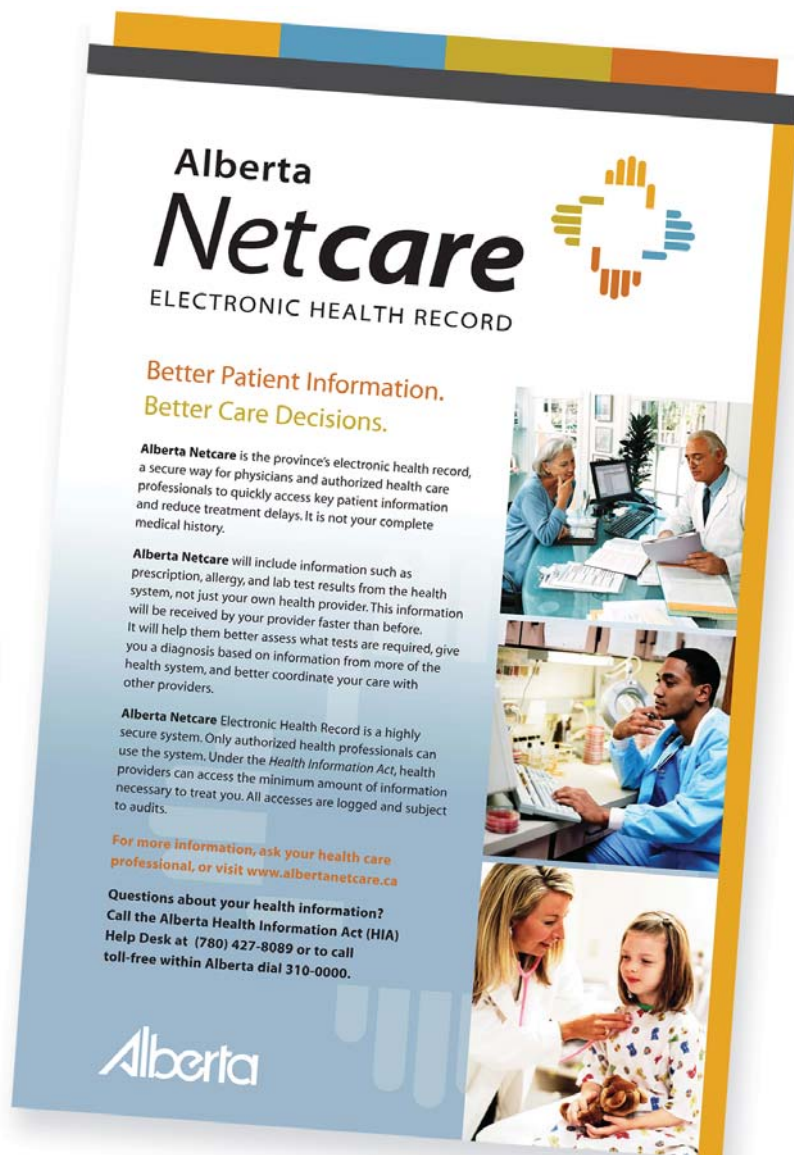
Alberta Netcare support materials

New materials have been developed to support the launch of the Alberta Netcare Portal 2006 pilot. Brochures and posters have been developed to explain Alberta Netcare to the general public and explain the role Alberta's electronic health record plays in the system.

The support materials include answers to questions such as:

- What is Alberta Netcare?
- How does it improve information sharing?
- How does it improve patient care?
- What information is contained in an electronic health record?
- What about privacy?
- Where can I get more information?

The support materials will initially be circulated to pilot sites around the province. Feedback on the materials will be collected during the pilot and incorporated into new versions for distribution on a wider basis when the rest of the province goes live.

Alberta Netcare
ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

A NEW WAY TO PROTECT ALBERTA PATIENTS THROUGH SHARED TECHNOLOGY.

A FIRM COMMITMENT TO PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY.

Alberta Netcare
ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

Better Patient Information.
Better Care Decisions.

Alberta Netcare is the province's electronic health record, a secure way for physicians and authorized health care professionals to quickly access key patient information and reduce treatment delays. It is not your complete medical history.

Alberta Netcare will include information such as prescription, allergy, and lab test results from the health system, not just your own health provider. This information will be received by your provider faster than before. It will help them better assess what tests are required, give you a diagnosis based on information from more of the health system, and better coordinate your care with other providers.

Alberta Netcare Electronic Health Record is a highly secure system. Only authorized health professionals can use the system. Under the *Health Information Act*, health providers can access the minimum amount of information necessary to treat you. All accesses are logged and subject to audits.

For more information, ask your health care professional, or visit www.albertanetcare.ca

Questions about your health information? Call the Alberta Health Information Act (HIA) Help Desk at (780) 427-8089 or to call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Alberta

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Contact us

To contact us for more information call 1-866-756-2647, or visit the Alberta Netcare website at **www.albertanetcare.ca**

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