



IN THIS ISSUE

NEW DATA ADDS TO STRONG INFORMATION BASE
UPDATE FROM RSHIP
PHARMACY UPDATE
PHYSICIAN UPDATE
CONTRIBUTING TO STRENGTHENING THE BOND!



New Data Adds to Strong Information Base



In Alberta Netcare Portal 2006, accurate and comprehensive data is the foundation of a useful health record system. The more data available about a patient, the more valuable the record is for physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals looking after that patient.

Recently, new milestones have been reached in the availability of additional data in the Alberta Netcare System. The new data highlights include the following:

IN MAY

- Calgary Health Region added all lab results performed by Calgary Lab Services. Results from eight Calgary Health Region rural sites will be added over the next six to nine months. This is a major boost to patient care in the Calgary and other southern regions.
- General lab results for all RSHIP regions and Microbiology from four regions (Chinook, David Thompson, East Central and Palliser) joined Northern Lights.
- DI text reports from all the RSHIP regions were added. This adds significantly to the province wide availability of this kind of data.

IN JUNE

- DI text reports from the Alberta Cancer Board Cross Cancer Institute and private provider CML HealthCare were added.
- The remaining two RSHIP regions (Aspen and Peace Country) added their Microbiology lab results.
- ECG reports and emergency department scanned reports are being added by the Capital region.
- Alberta Cancer Board province wide Operative Reports were made available.

Data will continually be added to the Alberta Netcare system. As a result of these additions, thousands of health care professionals across the province can access lab test, DI and other reports for their patients using Alberta Netcare Portal 2006. The new data contributes to overall system usefulness for physicians and other health professionals, and ultimately to improved patient care.

Alberta Netcare congratulates everyone who continues to be involved in the successful delivery of these valuable data sources into the Alberta Netcare provincial viewer.

Update from RSHIP

The RSHIP member regions are working on several initiatives to enhance the electronic health record.

LAB TEST RESULTS AND DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING TEXT REPORTS

In May 2007, RSHIP member regions started delivery of the lab test results and diagnostic imaging (DI) text reports reported in the adjacent article. Then in June, Peace Country Health and Aspen Regional Health began delivering microbiology test results to Alberta Netcare as part of the RSHIP laboratory results delivery project.

With these two milestones, the seven RSHIP member regions are now all delivering general laboratory and microbiology test results to Alberta Netcare Portal 2006. In the coming months, pathology and blood bank test results will also be delivered.

CLIENT REGISTRY

The provincial client registry initiative will help ensure patients are more effectively identified at the point of service. Within RSHIP, this initiative is now actively underway. All seven regions will see a passive connection to a client registry in place for mid-December 2007.

PICTURE ARCHIVING COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (PACS)

Another major project underway is the implementation of Picture Archiving Communications System (PACS) technology for digital radiology images. Deployment of the PACS initiative in Peace Country Health Region and Aspen Regional Health Authority is underway. These deployments build on the successful implementations in David Thompson Health Region and East Central Health in 2006. Once the PACS technology is completed, physicians will be able to view the PACS images directly from the clinical information systems within RSHIP. Through these initiatives, RSHIP has made significant progress in the enhancement of the provincial EHR.

For contact information please visit the website at www.rship.ca

The Alberta Netcare Newsletter is switching to a quarterly format and publication schedule which will highlight significant developments, milestones and feature stories. Our next newsletter is scheduled for November 2007.



PHARMACY UPDATE



PHARMACIST ACCESS TO THE PROVINCIAL EHR

Pharmacists are increasingly being recognized as essential members of integrated patient care teams. In addition to enrolling in Pharmacy Batch, all Alberta pharmacists have the opportunity to enroll for access to Alberta Netcare Portal. Alberta Netcare provides authorized health care providers with the ability to access valuable patient clinical information, enhancing their ability to provide better patient care. Using Alberta Netcare provides pharmacies with access to a range of useful information to assist with both dispensing and prescribing.

Alberta Netcare is currently available to pharmacists and provides access to important patient and dispensed drug information.

For further information regarding enrolling in Alberta Netcare, contact the Alberta Netcare Enrolment and Support Line at **1 (866) 756 2647** or in Edmonton **(780) 642 4082**.

PRIVACY IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR ALBERTA NETCARE ENROLMENT

Protecting privacy is a priority for Alberta Netcare. Within the *Health Information Act* (HIA), both pharmacies and pharmacists are identified as custodians of individual personal information. As such, there is a requirement under the HIA for a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be completed for each pharmacy or practice enrolling in Alberta Netcare. The PIA confirms that appropriate privacy policies and practices are in place. Support is available. For more information, contact the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) at **(780) 422 6860** or visit **www.oipc.ab.ca**

MANDATORY REPORTING OF DISPENSING EVENTS

In April 2007, Minister Hancock sent a letter to all Alberta pharmacists advising them that as of September 1, 2007, all community pharmacies must submit their drug dispense records, including personal health numbers, to Alberta Netcare.

Since that letter went out, the Alberta Netcare team has been working closely with the Alberta College of Pharmacists (ACP) and the Alberta Pharmacists Association (RxA) to provide the necessary support for pharmacists and pharmacies to comply with this requirement.

Currently over 60 per cent of all Alberta pharmacies are already submitting their dispensing records via the Pharmacy Batch process. This information is then available to all other authorized health care professionals to assist with patient care decisions.

We encourage you to enroll in Alberta Netcare and the Pharmacy Batch process as soon as possible, for support in doing this, please call **1 (866) 756 2647** or e-mail **health.ehrdeployment@gov.ab.ca** to contact the Alberta Netcare Deployment Team.

PHYSICIAN UPDATE



technology in a clinical context. Physicians joining the program commit to:

- using electronic medical records (POSP Level 2)
- implementing a physician office system that is on the VCUR (Vendor Conformance

and Usability Requirements) Product List

- meeting the outcomes set by POSP.

Application forms for physicians interested in joining the program are posted at **www.posp.ab.ca**.

Retroactive funding will be provided to eligible physicians whose funding has ended provided they meet certain criteria. Physicians do not need to apply for retroactive payments; POSP will contact these physicians over the summer to confirm eligibility and to

arrange site visits where necessary. Retroactive payments will be available in August 2007.

Physicians who are currently enrolled in the program will continue to receive funding according to the terms of their contracts.

POSP will continue to offer change management support to help physicians and their teams move from paper charting to electronic medical records. POSP will also continue to set technical and functional requirements for physician office systems and to test products against these.

More detailed information will be provided to physicians and posted on the POSP website at **www.posp.ab.ca** as it becomes available. Questions may be directed to POSP by e-mail at **posp@albertadoctors.org** or by calling **(780) 452 1616** or **1 (866) 817 3875**.

POSP Funding Extended

Funding under the Physician Office System Program (POSP) for physicians to move from paper charting to electronic medical records has been extended to March 31, 2008 under the two-year trilateral financial agreement signed earlier this spring.

The funding extension is intended to increase the number of physicians using information



STRENGTHENING THE BOND CONFERENCE, MAY 3 TO 5, 2007, BANFF

Contributing to Strengthening the Bond!

Our Alberta Netcare team was pleased to participate in the Strengthening the Bond conference, held from May 3 to 5 in Banff. The conference was a 'first in kind' opportunity for Alberta pharmacists, nurses and physicians to convene as a group and discuss opportunities for working together to improve patient care. With over 750 participants in attendance, this conference appears to have been a huge success in fostering enhanced collaboration among Alberta health care providers.

The Alberta Netcare booth had steady traffic, with health care providers learning of the tremendous value that Alberta's electronic health record (EHR) can provide.

The online demonstrations of Alberta Netcare Portal 2006 allowed the team to showcase how secure electronic access to needed clinical information at the point of care will benefit health care in Alberta.

Nurses, physicians and pharmacists at the conference were able to ask the Alberta Netcare Team many important questions. The main topics of interest were data availability, how to gain access to the system and security/confidentiality of individual patient records. These questions demonstrated how involved and concerned health care providers are in ensuring that Alberta Netcare is used appropriately to assist in providing optimal care, while protecting individual privacy rights.

The conference presented a great opportunity for the Alberta Netcare team to interact with multiple disciplines in the health sector; participate in discussion and feedback and demonstrate the value of the electronic health record.

The Alberta Netcare booth complemented the theme of the conference very well. Alberta Netcare provides an invaluable tool to support a team-based approach to health care. The ability to share essential patient information between team members contributes significantly to the ability of health care providers to work together for better patient care.

*Better patient information.
Better care decisions.*





Contact us

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



Alberta
Netcare
ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD



Better Patient Information.
Better Care Decisions.

Alberta