The *Alberta Medical Association* (AMA), College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA), and Alberta Health (AH) identified the need for a frequently asked question (FAQ) document to explain the CII initiative and its implications to patients of CII clinics.

What is the Community Information Integration (CII) initiative?

The CII initiative collects health information from your family physician and other community providers you visit, and makes it available in Alberta Netcare, your provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR), in the form of clinical reports. Once available in Alberta Netcare, this information is accessible to other healthcare providers across the health system. The result is a more complete health record. The availability of comprehensive patient information helps clinicians make informed treatment decisions about you, and supports coordination of your care. Information also flows to Alberta Health's data analytics environment to assess initial data quality for the CII initiative. Longer term, your information will be used to better inform population health assessment, quality improvement, and health system planning in Alberta.

What is Alberta Netcare?

Alberta Netcare is the name for all the projects related to the provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR) - a secure and confidential electronic system of Alberta patients' health information. The EHR stores information about your interactions with the health system. These interactions include the results of laboratory tests, dispenses of pharmaceuticals (drugs), hospital discharge reports, and diagnostic imaging. CII increases the availability of community patient health information in Alberta Netcare. The result is a single, comprehensive, and integrated patient record.

What information is flowing to Alberta Netcare from CII sites?

Clinical information that gives a 'snapshot' of your health condition flows into Alberta Netcare. This includes your patient data (PHN, birthdate, gender), provider data (name, role, expertise, location), observations (health concerns, allergies, blood pressure, clinical assessment), immunizations and referrals. In addition, the CII initiative makes specialist consult reports available to other care providers through Alberta Netcare. However, notes in your physician's Electronic Medical Record (EMR) related to any confidential conversations you may have had with your physician will not flow into Alberta Netcare.

What is a Community Encounter Digest (CED) report?

The first report displayed in Alberta Netcare will be a CED report that summarizes the care you have received over the past year from community-based clinics. This includes details on:

- Service providers
- Service delivery location
- Encounter (details)
- Observations (measurements and others)
- Interventions and treatment
- Referral requests
- Immunizations

Why does my health information display in Alberta Netcare?

For health care treatments to be effective, health care providers need access to accurate patient information. Alberta Netcare makes it faster and easier for clinicians to access up-to-date information about their patients. Alberta Netcare displays information relevant to a given provider's ability to make treatment decisions and deliver care – whether in the emergency department or in a family physician's office. This allows them to provide you with the very best quality of care.

I have concerns about some of my health information being shared through Alberta Netcare. What do I do?

Please discuss this concern with your physician to get a better understanding of the possible risks entailed with choosing not to share all of your health information through Alberta Netcare. If you ask your physician to limit the amount of health information disclosed, your physician must consider these "**expressed wishes**". The physician must then apply their professional judgment and weigh your concern with any other important factors, such as your safety, whether the information could be important to another Health Care provider, legal requirements, professional college standards and other factors. The physician must make a decision on what and whether to disclose the information. The physician can also choose not to make a specialist consult report available to Netcare.

How do I find out what is in my physician's records or in Alberta Netcare about me?

You may ask your physician for a copy or print-out of your health information about you under their custody or control, including your record in Alberta Netcare. This information may be released to you informally. Otherwise, under the Health Information Act (HIA), you have the right to make a formal access request to your physician.

To make a formal request for access to your health information, submit your request in writing to your physician. However, if the health services were provided in a hospital, contact the Alberta Health Services Health Information/ Records Management office at the site where you received the services.

What is Alberta Health planning to do with the information community clinics provide?

Alberta Health, in consultation with the Alberta Medical Association (AMA), the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSA), and other clinical partners, plans to use this information for appropriate data analysis purposes. This will include population health assessment, health system planning, quality improvement, and research at the primary care level.

I would like more information about the CII project and Alberta Netcare.

For further information, please visit the Alberta Netcare website http://www.albertanetcare.ca/Projects.htm or contact us at:

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