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 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. The result is a single, comprehensive, and integrated patient record.

What is the Community Information Integration (CII) project?

The CII project will collect your health information from community - based clinics that is not currently available in Alberta Netcare and make this information available in the form of clinically relevant reports. Once available in Alberta Netcare, this information will be accessible to healthcare providers across the health system to improve the coordination of your care. Information will also flow to Alberta Health's data analytics environment to assess initial data quality. Longer term, your information will be used to better inform population health assessment, quality improvement, and health system planning in Alberta.

What information is flowing to Alberta Netcare from CII sites?

Clinical information that gives a snapshot of your health condition will flow into Alberta Netcare. This includes your birthdate, gender, diagnosis, and clinical observations (immunizations, allergies, blood pressure, height, weight, etc.). Additionally, the CII initiative will make specialist consult reports available to other care providers through Alberta Netcare. However, Physician notes 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 the following:

- 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 it be 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 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 AMA, 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:

eHealth Support Services (eHSS) Team

1-855-643-8649 (Toll Free)

Hours of Operation: 7am - 7pm (Mon-Fri)

Email**: ehealthsupport@cgi.com**