



The Evolving Alberta Health Information System FAQs

Alberta



What is Alberta Netcare?

Alberta Netcare is the provincial electronic health record (EHR) system. It is a secure and confidential repository of health information collected from point-of-care systems across the community and Alberta Health Services (AHS). Alberta Netcare Portal is a viewer into a patient's EHR and provides key health information such as demographics, event history, lab and diagnostic imaging results, referrals, immunizations, transcribed reports, community reports and medications. Alberta Netcare allows authorized health care providers across the province access to a consolidated view of key patient health information to support care delivery. Community Information Integration (CII) and the Central Patient Attachment Registry (CPAR) are examples of Alberta Netcare initiatives.

What is CII/CPAR?

CII/CPAR enables physicians and their teams to share patient information to Alberta Netcare directly from their electronic medical record (EMR) and receive important notifications on patient status to their EMR. This two-way connection between clinic EMRs and Alberta Netcare supports improved continuity of care between the Patient's Medical Home and Health Neighborhood and other healthcare settings across the province.

CII allows providers to send select patient information to Alberta Netcare, including consult letters and information about patient visits, which contribute to an individual patient's Community Encounter Digest (CED). CPAR identifies relationships between patients and their primary provider and sends eNotifications to providers when their patients are seen in the emergency department, have a hospital admission or day surgery.

What is Connect Care?

Connect Care is a provincial initiative of Alberta Health Services (AHS) to bridge information, healthcare teams and patients. The foundation of Connect Care is a common clinical information system that is being developed in partnership with Epic. Connect Care will replace many of the 1,300 health information systems currently in place across 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.

Will Connect Care replace Alberta Netcare?

No. Alberta Netcare will continue to provide access to key patient health information. In fact, Alberta Netcare is being enhanced by additional provincially standardized information sourced from Connect Care, such as emergency department summaries and in-hospital consultations. Alberta Netcare is also being enhanced with new information from EMRs via CII/CPAR, such as community encounters via CEDs and community consultation reports. In addition, Alberta Health has undertaken the eHealth Ecosystem Modernization Initiative in which key eHealth assets and applications will be modernized to utilize consistent industry leading standards and best practices, beginning with Alberta Netcare.

“Netcare will continue to be the first place health providers consult for patient information in Alberta. Connect Care is an important and expanding source of clinical information, but the majority of patient care happens in the community, and that is Netcare’s future.”

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

AHS is using Connect Care both to improve the way AHS delivers healthcare and to stabilize the way that AHS uses and stores health care information.

CII/CPAR is a joint project between the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health and AHS and is the chosen vehicle to integrate community EMRs with two-way data flow to Alberta Netcare and other provincial eHealth systems.

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?

Alberta Netcare, Connect Care and CII/CPAR are complimentary. Enhancements to these systems will enable broader opportunities for sharing information across the health system. Over time, the Alberta Netcare experience will be enhanced through better quality, consistency and breadth of AHS information from Connect Care and community information from CII/CPAR. Connect Care in turn will be flowing more AHS information to community EMRs and receiving more information on patients seen in the community through CII/CPAR in the future. CII/CPAR will also be used to link community provider EMRs, Connect Care and Alberta Netcare together to enable electronic referrals in Alberta. The delivery of patient information to primary care providers would be subject to a confirmed relationship via CPAR. .

Do I have to use Connect Care?

If you are providing health services where AHS holds the 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 an EMR.

What patient information can I expect to find in each system?

Patient information will continue to reside in your community EMR, in Alberta Netcare, and in Connect Care, but there will be more common information available between them. Key information from across the health system will be available within Alberta Netcare, but greater detail on AHS encounters will be available via the Connect Care provider portal. Alberta Health and AHS are working to enable authorized access to Connect Care provider portal via Alberta Netcare Portal over time.

Will I still receive results into my community EMR?

Results will be delivered in a very similar way as 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.

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

No. While work continues on Connect Care, Alberta Netcare, and CII/CPAR initiatives, the Alberta government continues to review the province's health information systems to ensure they support coordinated high-quality care and avoid duplication.