



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

### **What is the CII initiative?**

The CII initiative collects health information from your family physician and other community providers you visit and makes it viewable in Alberta Netcare Portal (ANP) in the form of clinical reports. Once available in ANP, this information is accessible to other health care 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 ANP. 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 ANP. 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 ANP 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 ANP?**

For health care treatments to be effective, health care providers need access to accurate patient information. ANP makes it faster and easier for clinicians to access up-to-date information about their patients. ANP 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.

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## **I have concerns about some of my health information being shared through ANP. What should 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 ANP. 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 information to disclose, and whether to disclose that information. The physician can also choose not to make a specialist consult report available to ANP.