



Expressed wishes of individuals and confidentiality are managed within the Community Information Integration (CII) Initiative

The Community Information Integration (CII) initiative makes patient information collected in community physicians' Electronic Medical Record (EMR) available to other providers through Alberta Netcare, the provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR), and through the Alberta Health Business Intelligence Environment (BIE), which is the provincial data warehouse for health information. Broader access to the patient's information helps improve the coordination of care in Alberta and better informs quality improvement, population health assessment, and health system planning efforts.

While an individual's consent is not required for this project under the Health Information Act (HIA), the CII initiative will honour the patient's "expressed wishes" about the confidentiality of their health information and the community physician's interpretation of those wishes.

The initial expressed wishes policy takes the most conservative approach possible with respect to confidentiality: no patient information will be displayed in Alberta Netcare that a community physician 'flags' as confidential in the EMR. This policy will be re-evaluated in the future, based on stakeholder feedback, with the goal to make as much health information available, while still respecting a patient's expressed wishes as per the HIA.

A community physician can record patient expressed wishes for confidentiality or decide to restrict access to demographic, diagnostic, treatment, or care

information in the clinic's EMR. Generally, this is done through the use of confidentiality flags. The number of flags and what can be restricted varies by EMR product, and the use of the flag will likely vary by physician, even within the same clinic. EMR vendors participating in the CII initiative will provide training on how to set and use the confidentiality flags within their EMR system.

The CII initiative currently recognizes four types of confidentiality flags:

1. Client Masking Flags: Mask access to all EMR records for the patient;
2. Encounter Masking Flags: Mask access to a specific EMR patient encounter;
3. Observation Masking Flags: Mask access to observation details in an EMR patient encounter and
4. Client Address Masking Flags: Mask access to EMR patient address details.

The table on the following page identifies confidentiality flags that can be set within a CII enabled clinic, as well as how expressed wishes are managed within Alberta Netcare and the Business Intelligence Environment.

The CII initiative is only capturing health information on a go-forward basis, which means it will not mask or unmask data retroactively.

CII Confidentiality Flagging Scenarios

MASKING FLAGS	FLAG VALUE	ALBERTA NETCARE	BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ENVIRONMENT (BIE)
Client Masking Flag	All information for this patient at the clinic is masked on a go-forward basis	CED* Report: Patient encounter will not be included in CED report sent to Alberta Netcare Consult Report: Specialist consult report will not be sent to Alberta Netcare	Access to the patient encounter is restricted in BIE.
Encounter Masking Flag	Patient information for the specific encounter will be masked	CED* Report: Specific patient encounter(s) will not be included in CED report sent to Alberta Netcare Consult Report: Specialist consult report will not be sent to Alberta Netcare	Access to the patient encounter is restricted in BIE.
Observation Masking Flag	Only the observation details in the patient encounter will be masked	CED* Report: Patient encounter observation details will not be included in CED report sent to Alberta Netcare Consult Report: Specialist consult report will not be sent to Alberta Netcare	Access to the patient encounter is restricted in BIE.
Address Masking Flag	Only the address details for the patient will be masked	CED* Report: Patient address details will not be included in CED report sent to Alberta Netcare Consult Report: Specialist consult report will be sent to Alberta Netcare	Access to the patient encounter is restricted in BIE.

*CED: Community Encounter Digest will be the first CII report displayed in Alberta Netcare. It summarizes the care a patient has received over the past year from community-based clinics.

For further information, please visit the Alberta Netcare website (<http://www.albertanetcare.ca/CII.htm>) or contact us at:

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