



Learn more about CII/CPAR with the following frequently asked questions.

What is CII/CPAR?

CII/CPAR is the chosen vehicle to integrate community EMRs with two-way data flow. It is a joint project between the AMA, Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services.

Community Information Integration (CII) is a system that transfers select patient information between community Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) and other members of the patient's care team through Alberta Netcare. The Central Patient Attachment Registry (CPAR) is a provincial system that captures the confirmed relationship of a primary provider and their paneled patients. Together CII/CPAR will enable the health system integration and improved continuity of care that are essential and foundational change elements in the implementation of the Patient's Medical Home.

For more details on the CII/CPAR project please go to the [AMA CII/CPAR webpage](#).

What if a patient does not want his/her information shared?

Patients have the right to ask their physician to limit the amount of health information that they disclose. The physician must apply their professional judgment and weigh the patient's concern with any other important factors, such as patient safety, the potential importance of that information to another health care provider, legal requirements, professional college standards and other factors. The physician must make a decision and should tell the patient what their decision is. It is a best practice to document the decision in the EMR. Dependent on the decision reached by the physician and the capabilities of the physician's EMR, a particular encounter can be marked as confidential. In this case, the information will not be displayed in Alberta Netcare. The physician can also choose **not** to

make a specialist consult report available to Alberta Netcare or not to include the patient in their submitted panel.

Will my clinic EMR Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) need to change?

No, as long as your EMR PIA is up to date.

Alberta Health has prepared a PIA that covers changes made to your clinic EMR system to accommodate disclosure of health information to CII. A synopsis of the Alberta Health PIA is provided during the sign-up process. Custodians are asked to sign an endorsement letter for the Alberta Health PIA, which explains that the clinic EMR system has been modified to support the data extraction process. The endorsement letter is sent to the Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner.

What privacy and security protections are in place for the data being shared?

Data is being transferred from the EMR vendor's hosting site to the Alberta Health data centre via a dedicated web service that uses strong encryption. The Alberta Health data centre meets high standards of data security with firewalls, intrusion detection, anti-malware systems and redundancy of power supply and hardware to ensure high availability and data integrity.

What is the legal authority that allows disclosure of health information to Alberta Health?

The physician's disclosure of health information to Alberta Health is authorized under section 27 of the *Health Information Act* (HIA) for the following purposes:

- providing health services;
- planning and resource allocation;
- health system management;
- public health surveillance; and
- health policy development.

Under the provisions of section 35(1) (a) and 36(a) of the HIA, this information can be disclosed without patient consent.

What is the legal authority that allows disclosure of health information to other health service providers though Alberta Netcare?

The disclosure by Alberta Health to Alberta Netcare is covered under HIA section 35(1)(b) and 36(a) and is subject to the requirements of section 58(2) whereby if a patient asked his/her physician to limit the amount of health information that the physician discloses, the physician must consider these expressed wishes. The physician must then apply his/her professional judgment and weigh the patient's concern with any other important factors, such as patient safety, whether the information could be important to another provider, legal requirements, professional college standards and other factors. The physician must make a decision on what and whether to disclose the information and should tell the patient what the decision is.

May we enter a report from Alberta Netcare (CED or other report) that was generated from another clinic into our clinic EMR or patient chart?

The HIA allows authorized custodians to access health information in Alberta Netcare essential to the treatment and care of their patients. Authorized custodians exercise control over the health information that is available to them through Alberta Netcare. As such, authorized custodians may enter health information from Alberta Netcare that was generated at other clinics into their own EMR or patient chart, as long as the information is relevant and essential to the treatment and care they are providing to the patient. Affiliates to authorized custodians should consult their site's policies and procedures on charting Alberta Netcare information and/or consult the relevant custodian before proceeding.

May we disclose reports from Alberta Netcare (CED or other report) that were entered into our own charts from Alberta Netcare?

If an authorized custodian puts information from Alberta Netcare into their own EMR system or patient chart, it becomes a part of their records, over which they exercise custody and control as a custodian. This means that the custodian may decide to disclose the Alberta Netcare information to a third party if the disclosure is authorized under the HIA.

Will community clinics get access to the data they shared?

Yes, clinics are able to see their data reflected in the reports published to Alberta Netcare. They can also review their data during the Limited Production Rollout (LPR) as part of the data validation process.

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.

What if I want to share additional information?

If the physician adds new information to the encounter for that patient, the new information will be picked up in the next nightly EMR data extract and added to the information in Alberta Netcare. As well, in consultation with the AMA, CPSA and other clinical stakeholders, additional data elements and reports will be incorporated in the future.