

Care Paths Overview

Care Paths

Care Paths are an advanced form of clinical decision support available in Connect Care that allow for an integrated multidisciplinary approach through shared coordination of a patient's health care goals across settings, including acute, community and primary care. They guide goal-based management of health conditions by exposing key information, personalizing recommendations, and promoting evidence-informed care.

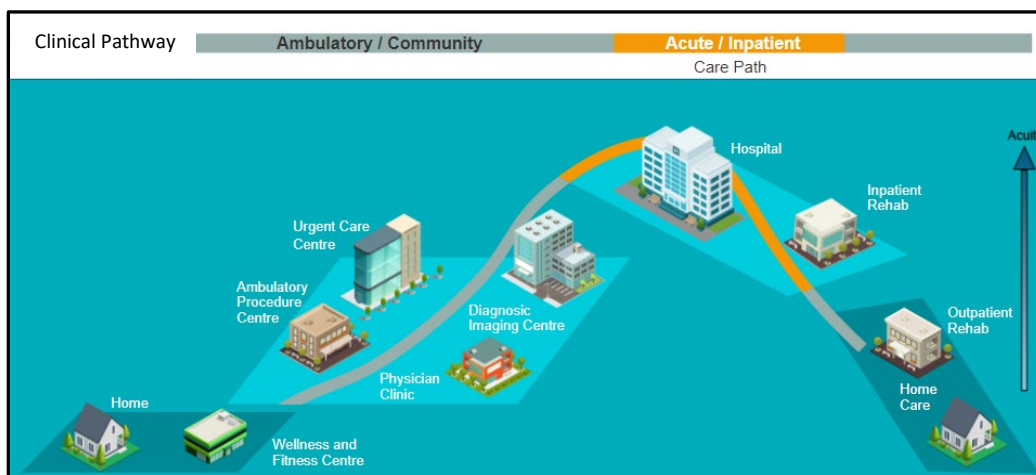
Key Features

- Improves safety and efficient workflow
- Reflects best practice guidelines and expert recommendations
- Integrates a multidisciplinary approach
- Integrates care based on Best Practice Advisories (BPAs)

Care Paths aid in clinical workflow with simple and intuitive supports accessed via Best Practice Advisories (BPAs) based on results, medications, investigations, and diagnosis. Targeted recommendations based on clinical criteria are provided to clinicians, which allow for key actions to be visible within a single view (for example, order management, note writing).

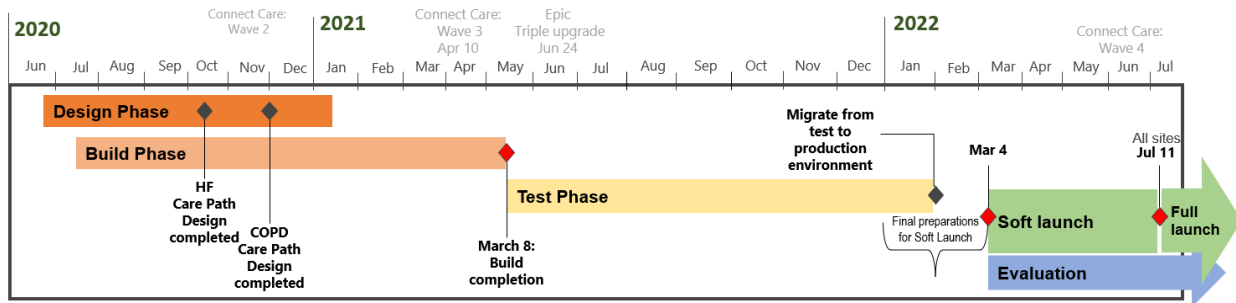
The first two Care Paths developed in Connect Care are for Heart Failure (HF) and Acute Exacerbation of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), with more planned in the near future for other disease conditions. Education modules for physicians, allied health clinicians and nurses through MyLearningLink and accredited modules for physicians to receive RCPSC MOC and CFPC MAINPRO are available.

Design and development of these Care Paths were based on input from multidisciplinary working groups and key Connect Care governance oversight committees (namely Clinical Decision Support Committee [CDS] and Advanced Decision Support Subcommittee [ADSS]); Work Safety Review testing led by Human Factors; and IT functional testing. A robust clinical, audit and feedback evaluation will be conducted to study the impact of the Care Paths from a clinician, patient, and system lens.



For more information, contact the Cardiovascular Health & Stroke SCN:
cardiovascularhealthstroke.scn@ahs.ca

Care Path development timeline



Care Path essentials

1. **Initiating a Care Path:** The Care Path will start with an “automatic pop-up” that asks the prescriber to place the patient on the Care Path. It will be triggered by either:
 - i) Admitting diagnosis, or
 - ii) Adding a principal diagnosis in the Problem List

2. **Managing a patient on a Care Path:** Once a patient is added to a Care Path, ongoing support and recommended key actions will be visible by clicking the Care Path BPA from the Storyboard.
 - Admission Order Sets are easily accessible from within the Care Path
 - A Summary tab, consolidating valuable patient information, is included to support day-to-day patient care (assessments, labs, vitals, medications, rapid rounds, expected date of discharge (EDD))
 - A Care Path can be stopped (resolved) at any time if conditions for its use change, and will be automatically resolved when a patient is discharged.
 - Care Paths move the patient through several phases, including initiation and access to Admission Order Set, Acute Management, Optimization of Treatment and Preparing for Discharge.
 - Patients move along a Care Path automatically based on specific criteria being met (e.g., clinical condition or length of stay data), or may be moved manually based on prescriber discretion and clinical judgment.

3. **Supports in place:** Care Paths are supported by a number of provincial teams, including the Care Path Project Team, Cardiovascular Health & Stroke Strategic Clinical Network™ (SCN), Medicine SCN™, IT, Clinical Knowledge & Content Management (CKCM), and the EPIC developers.

Additional Resources:

- [SCN Heart Failure & COPD Clinical Pathways page](#)
- Insite Connect Care Guidance Viewer - provincially developed and approved clinical guidance and practice standards

Education Modules in MyLearning Link (MLL): Available courses include:

- EPIC - Care Paths - Allied Health/Nursing (15 min)
- EPIC - Care Paths - Prescribers (20 min) (not accredited); **Note:** this course is also inserted into the accredited modules below

or

Accredited Courses: See course description and Learning Objectives in MLL

- Heart Failure Disease Care Path Integration: Evidenced-Based Guideline Recommended Best Care
 - RCPSC MOC 3 – SAP 1.5 hrs
 - CFPC Mainpro+ 3-credits-per-hour for 1.5 hrs (4.5 credits)
- Acute Exacerbation of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Care Path Integration - Evidenced-Based Guideline Recommended Best Care
 - RCPSC MOC 3 – SAP 1.0 hrs
 - CFPC Mainpro+ 3-credits-per-hour for 1.0 hr (3.0 credits)

Last updated July 7, 2022