



Connect Care Community Provider Update

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What is Connect Care?

Connect Care is a provincial initiative of Alberta Health Services to bridge information, healthcare teams and patients. The foundation of Connect Care is a common clinical information system (CIS) that is being developed in partnership with Epic. Connect Care will replace many of the 1,300 health information systems currently in place across Alberta Health Services (AHS) and affiliated organizations to create a single access point for 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 by reducing the number of individual information systems in operation. Connect Care development is an on-going process with many key decisions yet to be made. Future editions of this newsletter will provide further updates on the deployment of this transformational health system improvement project.



As a community physician, how will I be impacted?

Non-AHS independent family physicians and their private clinics will continue to use their existing Electronic Medical Records (EMRs). However, enhancements to Alberta Netcare, along with the CII/CPAR initiative, will enable broader opportunities for sharing information between Connect Care and community EMRs, such as patient discharge eNotifications. Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services are currently in the planning phase to determine which features will be developed and how they will be made available.



What Services and Facilities will be impacted?

Connect Care will be implemented at both AHS and partner-run services and facilities where AHS holds the legal record of care. This includes:

- Hospitals
- AHS operated Clinics
- AHS operated Continuing Care facilities
- Cancer Centres
- Addiction & Mental Health
- Homecare
- Public Health
- Calgary Laboratory Services locations
- Alberta Public Laboratories
- CapitalCare
- Carewest
- DynaLIFE locations
- Covenant Health



How will Connect Care impact existing community information systems?

Alberta Health Services strives to improve integration with community healthcare providers, which includes maintaining and improving informational continuity. The Connect Care team is keenly aware that existing informatics systems must not be negatively impacted as Connect Care deploys and it is important to establish new technological opportunities for health information to be accessed by patients and providers. The following are some key avenues the community will be able to use to share information with Connect Care:

eDelivery – The eDelivery system to allow lab results to be sent electronically to family physician EMRs will continue to operate. If you are receiving at least one result type via eDelivery today, you will be set up to receive all of the Connect Care results available by eDelivery in the future. There is no need to specifically request results delivery from Connect Care. If you do not receive results by eDelivery today, and would like to begin, visit

<http://www.ahs.ca/info/Page15302.aspx> for more information.

CPAR/CII – The Central Patient Attachment Registry and Community Integration Initiative is an independent project from Connect Care, and a joint initiative between Alberta Health, the Alberta Medical Association, and Alberta Health Services. Information regarding CII/CPAR integration will be provided in future updates as key decisions are made.

Alberta Netcare – The Alberta Health Netcare system will continue to function as a major information hub to electronically share information beyond Connect Care.

Final decisions are currently being made about portal interfaces with Connect Care, for both providers and patients. Stay tuned!

What is the Connect Care timeline?

Connect Care is on track for a 5-year development and deployment timeline, completing in 2022. Development is organized around a sequence of 9 waves, with the first wave scheduled for November 2019.

Wave 1 is focused on the following:

- Edmonton Zone Walter C. MacKenzie Campus, East Edmonton Health Centre, and associated pharmacy, DI, and public labs
- Ambulatory Clinics that are currently using eCLINICIAN
- All DynaLIFE across Alberta Health Services
- The Cross Cancer Institute (labs)

Wave 2 is scheduled for March 2020 and will encompass many rural communities in Central Alberta, and Red Deer, as well as urgent care sites in Calgary Zone. More details will be made available in future updates.

Implementation timeline:

<https://www.ahs.ca/assets/info/cis/if-cis-cc-infographic-site-implementation-timeline.pdf>



How can I learn more?

Alberta Health Services is partnering with the Alberta Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Alberta College of Family Physicians to ensure that community physicians are kept up to date on relevant Connect Care news and development. More information and resources from AHS can be found on the AHS website:

<http://ahs.ca/ccproviderbridge>

Dr. Rob Hayward, AHS Chief Medical Information Officer, publishes a blog where he shares his thoughts and opinions on the Connect Care project and its potential to transform healthcare in Alberta.

<http://bytes.connect-care.ca>

➤ Contact us

Phone: *Coming Soon!*

Email: ccproviderbridge@ahs.ca

Please note that we will respond to email queries within 2-3 business days.



Learn more about Connect Care

AHS Connect Care:

For community physicians:
<http://ahs.ca/ccproviderbridge>

General information:
<https://www.ahs.ca/info/cis.aspx>

Email: ccproviderbridge@ahs.ca

Phone: *Coming soon!*

Alberta Netcare:

<http://www.albertanetcare.ca>

CII/CPAR:

<http://www.topalbertadoctors.org/CII-CPAR>

<http://www.albertanetcare.ca/learningcentre/CII.htm>

<http://www.albertanetcare.ca/learningcentre/CPAR.htm>