

Pharmacy Integration with the Provincial Electronic Health Record

Pharmacy staff play a critical role in the Alberta Netcare Electronic Health Record (EHR). There has always been great emphasis on communicating medication data between health care providers because this information has such a significant impact on patient care.

The integration of local pharmacy systems and the EHR is designed to make this communication more efficient, and to make the best quality of data available to you and to your health care colleagues.

What is EHR Integration?

EHR Integration allows your pharmacy system and the EHR to communicate key information about your patient at the point of care. This communication is seamless, and occurs while you are interacting with your patient in real time. This means that you don't have to leave your pharmacy system to view medication information in Alberta Netcare, and you don't have to use Pharmacy Batch to submit your data.

Why Should You Participate?

When patient information is updated in real time, instead of in batches, the quality of data increases — but most importantly — patient safety increases. There are many additional advantages of integrating your pharmacy system with the provincial electronic health record.

- **You can view add and update patient medication information in the EHR automatically as you perform these functions in your local system.**
- **You won't need to open Alberta Netcare Portal to view dispenses from another pharmacy.** You can view your patient's provincial Medication Profile within your pharmacy system.
- **You won't need to use Pharmacy Batch or manually manage response files.** Integration allows you to send updates to the EHR in real time, while you are with your patient.
- **Your medication dispenses are available immediately to other clinicians.**
- **You can quickly add new patients to your system** with information from the provincial client registry.
- **You can quickly check eligibility for Alberta government sponsored programs and obtain/verify PHNs from within your pharmacy system.** For example, eligibility for the influenza vaccination program through Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.
- **You can get to know your patients better** by having access to information about other medications (including schedule 2 drugs) your patients are taking and other pharmacies they may have visited.

The Future of Prescribing and Dispensing in Alberta

In addition to working with pharmacies, we are working with physician offices to integrate their local systems as well. Integration with physician offices will result in more prescriptions being added to the EHR and better information for pharmacists to dispense against. Integration of both pharmacy and physician office systems is the foundation for provincial ePrescribe in Alberta. For more information please visit www.albertanetcare.ca/ePrescribe.htm.

Interested in Participating?

To get more information or to enroll please contact the Alberta Netcare eHealth Support Services team at **1-855-643-8649**, or, email eHealthRTI@cgi.com.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alberta's pharmacy community...

98% of dispenses are available in the Alberta Netcare Electronic Health Record.

Funding Available for Pharmacy Integration

Financial support is available for integration. RTI Grant funding is available to RTI participants, to offset potential costs for hardware or training.

In addition to the RTI Grant, another \$625 funding is also available when your updated Privacy Impact Assessment (which must cover system to system real time messaging) is accepted by the Office of the Information Privacy Commissioner.

For information on funding, please contact: Alberta Netcare eHealth Support Services team at 1-855-643-8649.

Integration gives me "instant access to patient histories — available at the start of a conversation, as soon as I open a profile. No logins, no website to navigate, it is automatic and accurate."

—Hugo Leung,
The Medicine Shoppe
College Plaza