



Information Sheet

PHC is the most common health care experienced by Canadians. High-quality data is essential to support quality improvement and health system management. Our goal is to establish pan-Canadian data sources and information that can be used to better understand PHC across Canada, report on PHC indicators and inform health policy and decision-making at various levels.

Our Vision

Better data. Better decisions.
Healthier Canadians.

Our Mandate

To lead the development and maintenance of comprehensive and integrated health information that enables sound policy and effective health system management that improve health and health care.

Our Values

Respect, Integrity, Collaboration,
Excellence, Innovation

Pan-Canadian PHC EMR Content Standard

Background and Context

Across Canada, electronic medical records (EMRs) are being implemented to support improvements in primary health care (PHC), including improved access, quality, outcomes, and chronic disease prevention and management. However, adoption of EMRs is not standardized, and data in EMRs is predominantly free text.

Working with key stakeholders, including Canada Health Infoway, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) released the pan-Canadian PHC EMR Content Standard (PHC EMR CS) in 2011. Informed by consultations and environmental scans, CIHI is working with the pan-Canadian Jurisdictional Advisory Group (JAG) to accelerate the adoption of these standards by issuing a PHC EMR CS priority subset (45 of the 106 data elements) and associated clinician-friendly pick-lists (CFPLs) in 2014. When implemented at the point of care, the standard will increase the availability of structured, coded data in EMRs and will support quality improvement and health system management.

Goal

Our goal is to have the PHC EMR CS priority subset and the CFPLs implemented in EMRs across the country. Jurisdictional leadership, clear data governance, collaborative partnerships, change management and capacity-building are key enablers to facilitate the collection of meaningful, structured data in EMR systems at the point of care.

Data collected in a consistent format at the point of care enables comparison of population health trends and informs health system planning and evaluation. The table provides an overview of the PHC EMR CS priority subset and associated CFPLs under development.

Approach

CIHI is collaborating with jurisdictions, clinicians and Canada Health Infoway to ensure that the PHC EMR CS priority subset and CFPLs are clinically relevant and aligned with jurisdictional priorities. CIHI is facilitating a multi-stage validation process leading to an endorsement by the JAG.

PHC EMR CS Priority Subset and Associated Clinician-Friendly Pick-Lists (Highlighted)

DE #	Data Element Name	DE #	Data Element Name
A1	Patient Identifier	E29	Height Unit of Measure
A2	Patient Identifier Type	E30	Weight
A3	Patient Identifier Assigning Authority	E31	Weight Unit of Measure
A4	Patient Date of Birth	E34	Clinician Assessment
A5	Patient Gender	F1	Intervention (Treatment)
A9	Patient Status	F2	Intervention (Treatment) Date
A14	Patient Postal/Zip Code	G1	Lab Test Ordered
B4	Clinician Identifier	G2	Lab Test Ordered Date
B5	Clinician Identifier Type	H1	Lab Test Performed Date
B6	Clinician Identifier Assigning Authority	H2	Lab Test Name
B7	Clinician Role	H3	Lab Test Result Value
C1	Service Delivery Identifier	H4	Lab Test Result Unit of Measure
C4	Service Delivery Postal Code	I1	Diagnostic Imaging Test Ordered
D1	Appointment Creation Date	I2	Diagnostic Imaging Test Ordered Date
D2	Reason for Visit	J1	Diagnostic Imaging Test Performed Date
D3	Visit Date	K1	Referral
D4	Visit Type	K2	Referral Requested Date
E11	Health Concern	L1	Referral Occurred Date
E12	Health Concern Date of Onset	M1	Prescribed Medication
E14	Social Behaviour	M2	Prescription Date
E23	Systolic Blood Pressure	O1	Vaccination Administered
E24	Diastolic Blood Pressure	O2	Vaccination Administered Date
E28	Height		

The Path Forward

CIHI plans to release the PHC EMR CS Priority Subset Business View, Data Models and Guidance documents in spring 2014, and the CFPLs and Implementation Guide in fall 2014. For more information on any of CIHI's PHC products or services, please contact us at phc@cihi.ca or visit www.cihi.ca/phc.