



SGP BULLETIN

December 19, 2017

Community Information Integration – CII

Dear Family Physician,

One of the most important components in continuity of care is informational continuity. Continuous flow of patient information has unarguable benefits: time savings, avoidance of duplication, avoidance of care gaps and, ultimately, improvement in the quality of care delivered to patients. Enhanced information exchange and improved information access is an essential component of the patient's medical home.

Community Information Integration (CII) is a provincial initiative that is focused on integrating community information with the broader provincial health information system. CII is in its very early stages. The initial effort is focused on early adopters participating in extracting data elements from their EMRs and determining the functionality of these elements within the larger system.

When fully developed, it is envisioned that the CII initiative will enable bi-directional flow of health information between community and central information systems (i.e. EMR and Netcare). There is also the potential for comparative reports to be developed that can further enhance panel reports already available through the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA).

There are some challenges that still need to be addressed in this initiative. We need to ensure there are no negative work flow implications, no additional costs, and there has to be a demonstrated benefit to patient care and our clinical practices. Patients expect - and already believe - that their appropriate information should flow between providers as required. As family physicians, we need to make sure this happens in an efficient manner.

The Section of General Practice is generally supportive of the CII initiative, but we need to make sure it has a positive impact on our practices and patients. There is still considerable work to be done by early adopters to identify and improve barriers and challenges before the initiative is further rolled-out and becomes mainstream.

As mentioned, we are in the early stages of this initiative. The Section of General Practice will continue to work with the AMA to ensure the initiative shows value for patients, physicians and the system as a whole. We will continue to keep family physicians updated as more information becomes available.

In the meantime, we are keen to hear your perspectives. If you have thoughts or questions regarding CII, or any other issues impacting family physicians, please e-mail me at gppres@albertadoctors.org.

Regards,



Dr. Darryl D. LaBuick
President - AMA Section of General Practice

[Unsubscribe](#)

Alberta Medical Association
12230 106 Ave NW
Edmonton AB T5N 3Z1