

Script for custodians using CII/CPAR

Background:

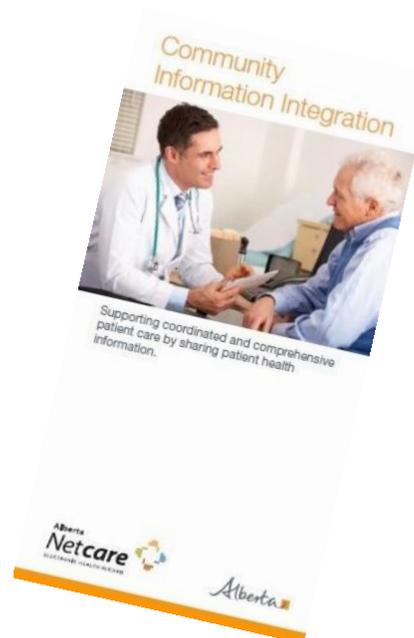
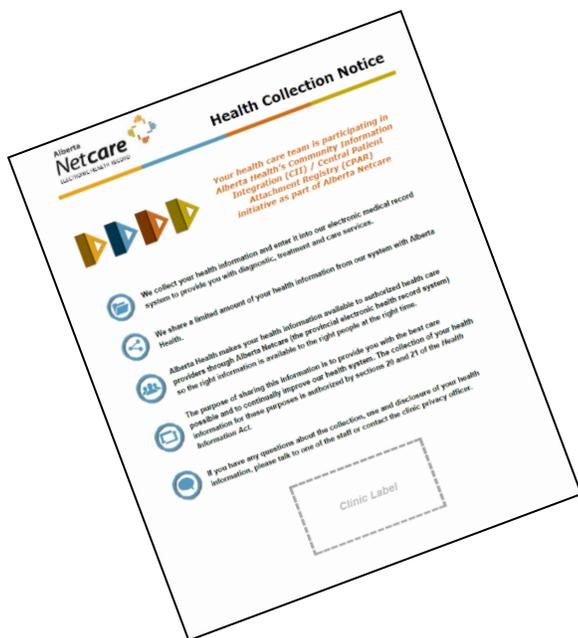
Under the *Health Information Act* (HIA) custodians have a duty to notify patients about the purpose of collecting their health information.

The HIA also requires that providers consider any wishes their patients express about how much of their health information is made available to CII/CPAR. Under CII/CPAR, “making available” means both:

- a. making patient’s information available to other health care providers via Alberta Netcare for treatment and care, and;
- b. making health information available to Alberta Health to be used for quality improvement, monitoring, audit, evaluation, reporting, planning and resource allocation, health system management, policy development and public health surveillance.

Custodians must consider their patient’s expressed wishes, along with any other factor they consider to be important, before making health information available to CII/CPAR.

Should you decide CII/CPAR is the right fit for you and your patients, you will have to inform patients of this decision by displaying Health Information Collection notices in prominent places in your clinic.



Patients may have questions though. We will also provide you with patient brochures that can be made available at your clinic and we have provided a brief outline below of what should be conveyed to patients should they desire more information.



Script:

Primary Care Providers:

“I have decided to participate in CII/CPAR to make the information I have about my patients available to other health care providers who may care for them through Alberta Netcare. I believe this is the right decision as it will lead to improved healthcare for all my patients in the event they are seen by other providers in other locations, for example, in an emergency room. Also, should it occur that you have an ER visit or hospital admission, by mid-2019, our clinic will be notified and can offer the appropriate follow-up.

I have also decided to participate in CII as I believe that Alberta Health will be able to use the information to better understand how healthcare is delivered through community physician clinics and how improvements can be made to the healthcare system province-wide.”

For specialist physicians only:

“I also plan to make my consult reports available to other healthcare providers through Alberta Netcare for the same reasons.”

Your patient may express concerns about how much health information will be made available via CII/CPAR.

Listen patiently to the patient’s concerns. You are not obliged to follow the patient’s expressed wish or direction regarding how much health information to make available to CII. However, you must:

- Properly consider any wishes the patient expressed about how much information you intend to make available;
- Use your professional judgment;
- Weigh the patient’s concern with any other important factors, such as patient safety, legal requirements, professional college guidance, etc.;
- Make a decision and tell the patient what your decision is;
- Document your decision; and
- Use confidentiality flags as needed in your EMR to restrict access to some or all of a patient’s health information.
- Be sure to convey this information in a clear manner to your patients:

“To restrict access to some information about you in my EMR, I have used a confidentiality flag. This flag assures us that the information in question will not be made available to Alberta Netcare and will stay within the EMR.

Further information on masking in Alberta Netcare and confidential flags in the EMR

As an alternative to the confidentiality flag, physician custodians can offer to use the masking of a patient’s record within Alberta Netcare as a means to restrict access to health information. This would have less of a potential impact on continuity of care.



The concept of “masking” in Alberta Netcare has been used for some time. When a patient has placed a mask on his/her record in Alberta Netcare, it requires that a user of Alberta Netcare must follow the unmasking procedure, which includes providing a reason to access the patient’s record, if they would like to see more than the patient’s first and last name, date of birth, gender and personal health number. The access of a masked record is logged and audited.

Masking in Alberta Netcare is different than using a confidentiality flag in a physician’s EMR. Masked information in Alberta Netcare is available through the unmasking procedure described above. Patient information subject to a confidentiality flag in an EMR is NOT made available to other care providers. This is why providers need to weigh patient confidentiality concerns with the need to support continuity of care.

A masking form can be filled out if a patient is concerned about the information that is already available on Alberta Netcare.

http://www.albertanetcare.ca/learningcentre/documents/Masking-Final_Applyform.pdf

Do you have additional questions?

See [Patient FAQ](#) and or [LPR FAQ](#) depending on question.

Patient FAQ:

http://www.albertanetcare.ca/learningcentre/documents/G162A_CII%20FAQ%20for%20LPR%20Patients_1.1.pdf

LPR FAQ:

http://www.albertanetcare.ca/learningcentre/documents/G160A_CII%20LPR%20Participation%20FAQ_1.3.pdf

The above is intended as guidance and is not legal advice. Consult your own legal counsel before proceeding.