Regional Integration
eHealth Ontario is leading the integration of electronic health care information across the province.

Together with the local health integration networks (LHINs) and health service providers, eHealth Ontario is working to deliver integrated and coordinated health care for Ontarians.

Regional integration involves the development of three health information hubs (connectingGreaterTorontoArea, connectingSouthWestOntario (cSWO) and connectingNorthernandEasternOntario (cNEO)) to enable effective delivery of provincial eHealth solutions.

The value of electronic health records will be enhanced through leveraging local, regional and provincial assets and connecting existing information technologies in ways that improve patient care and clinical efficiencies. By developing a system that addresses local needs first and, ultimately, feeds into a broader provincial solution, critical patient information will be made available at the point-of-care to improve the clinician and patient experience. Enabling health care to move from silos of information to an integrated information system will result in a more coordinated approach to health care in the province.

Ultimately, regional integration will simplify the connection of the electronic health information currently collected and managed by many health service providers with the information in provincial repositories. eHealth Ontario continues to invest in proven and local eHealth systems within each region to enhance their readiness for electronic health records and provide immediate clinical value to clinician adopters.

Patient benefits:
- Improves quality of care, patient flow, patient safety and continuity of care
- Reduces redundancy (such as duplicate testing)
- Provides better and more timely care
- Enables more informed health care decisions and improved patient outcomes

Health care provider benefits:
- Improves efficiency of clinical decision-making
- Allows more time for patient care by reducing administrative burdens
- Improves the ability to better manage, coordinate and plan care
- Increases the ability to monitor patient outcomes

Health system benefits:
- Accelerates development and delivery of electronic health records
- Supports opportunities to improve the overall sustainability of the health system
- Enhances health system planning, decision support and performance management
- Reduces wait times across the continuum of care

Progress to date

There are three regional integration hubs across the province. The programs are a core element of eHealth Ontario’s strategy to integrate patient health information for all Ontarians.
ConnectingGTA

ConnectingGTA represents 50 per cent of Ontario’s population and is comprised of six LHINs – Central, Central East, Central West, Mississauga Halton, North Simcoe Muskoka and Toronto Central. University Health Network is the delivery partner.

Work is underway with a group of early adopters to deliver a regional information sharing network.

To date, this work includes capturing the following data at 16 sites and will shortly share it with 20,000 clinical users:

- 75 per cent of the region’s lab data for the Ontario laboratories information system (OLIS)
- 50 per cent of the region’s hospital data
- 93 per cent of the region’s community care access centre data
- To date, 57 million messages (hospital reports, emergency department reports, admission/discharge reports) are captured and grow by 2 million each week.

Next steps

ConnectingGTA will expand to an additional 75 organizations in the region to improve patient transitions across the continuum of care.

Additionally, the program will increase the volume of data available for timely decision-making to reach 40,000 clinical users:

- 80 per cent of the region’s hospital data
- 100 per cent of the region’s community care access centre data

ConnectingSouthWestOntario

ConnectingSouthWestOntario (cSWO) represents 30 per cent of Ontario’s population including the four south west LHINs – Erie St. Clair (ESC), South West (SW), Waterloo Wellington (WW) and Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB).

London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) is the delivery partner for cSWO program implementation and management, accountable to eHealth Ontario. Hamilton Health Sciences Centre (HHSC) is the key solution partner to cSWO delivering the integrated regional clinical viewer to clinicians in south west Ontario.

LHSC is coordinating the delivery of change management and adoption activities for the successful implementation of the program. Knowledge and expertise as well as adoption and change management activities for the successful implementation of the program.

Through significant contributions, participation and endorsement by regional clinicians and eHealth Ontario, a detailed implementation and adoption plan has been completed and implementation is underway.

To date the cSWO regional clinical viewer integrations include:

Hospital integrations

73 per cent of south west Ontario hospitals made up of:

- 100 per cent of Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN hospitals integrated
- 100 per cent of Waterloo Wellington LHIN hospitals integrated
- 60 per cent of South West LHIN hospitals integrated
- 25 per cent of Erie St. Clair LHIN hospitals integrated

Community Care Access Centres Integration

- 100 per cent of all south west community care access centres integrated, including an expanded data set

Provincial Repositories/Registries Integration

cSWO regional clinical viewer is integrated with:

- OLIS with first 48 health services providers integrated
- Southwestern Ontario Diagnostic Imaging Network (SWODIN) – with two hospitals (Norfolk and St. Mary’s) active

Primary Care Integration

- Provincial HRM (Hospital Report Manager) integrations underway to physician electronic medical record (EMR) solutions in three out of four LHINs.
- Family doctors in the ESC LHIN now receiving hospital reports by direct integration to their EMR solutions – in readiness for HRM.

Next steps

Once fully implemented, the EHR will be used by more than 46,000 health care professionals at approximately 3,500 organizations in south west Ontario.

ConnectingNorthernandEasternOntario

ConnectingNorthernandEasternOntario (cNEO) consists of the four northern and eastern LHINs – South East, Champlain, North East and North West covering 20 per cent of the provincial population (90 percent of Ontario’s landmass).

- The program delivery partner for the implementation phase is The Ottawa Hospital.
- An agreement between eHealth Ontario and The Ottawa Hospital for the implementation of the program is scheduled to be signed in fall 2014.
  » The planning phase is complete. Adoption is now underway.
  » The cNEO program is implementing EHR services for an estimated 18,000 clinicians across northern and eastern Ontario.

Next steps

- As a first step to the implementation of provincial EHR services, a cNEO clinical viewer delivery pilot project, funded by eHealth Ontario, is being implemented in northern and eastern Ontario.
  » The project provides a sample group of approximately 750 clinicians with access to patients’ laboratory results through the use of a cNEO clinical viewer.
  » cNEO continues to engage LHIN-nominated health service provider organizations on requirements to participate as a service delivery partner for the cNEO program.
  » Service delivery partners will be the local resources who will provide the knowledge and expertise as well as adoption and change management activities for the successful implementation of the program.