Improving access to information:
Improving patient care

WHO WE ARE

Aligning to Ontario’s eHealth Blueprint, ConnectingGTA is one of three integration hubs, providing a regional electronic health record to Central Ontario. Regional integration will enhance patient care by providing seamless and secure access to patient information across the care continuum.

With strong referral patterns throughout the region, ConnectingGTA presents a significant opportunity to transform care delivery—enabling faster treatment and better care coordination for patients.

WHAT WE DO

The ConnectingGTA Program will integrate electronic patient information and make it available at the point-of-care to enhance the patient and clinician experience.

Focusing on the data clinicians need most the Program will leverage health care organizations’ and provincial ehealth registries and repositories as data sources for:
- Clinical Reports
  - Acute (discharge summaries, emergency department, visits & encounters)
  - CCAC (referral information & details, assessments, service details)
- Diagnostic imaging reports
- Drug information*
- Lab results

ConnectingGTA will:
- Collect priority data
  A Clinical Data Repository will store data from existing databases and registries.
- Provide the ability to exchange information
  A Health Integration Access Layer will integrate and securely share clinical data from multiple sources.
- Provide access to information
  Access options, such as a provider portal and direct integration, will allow clinicians to seamlessly access patient information online.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

ConnectingGTA will provide better access to information for ~750 health care organizations to contribute to better care delivery for approximately 6.75 million residents or 51% of Ontario’s population.

- Patients will receive improved, more timely and more coordinated care
- Clinicians will be able to initiate timely treatment, improve productivity and better collaborate with peers
- Health care organizations will be able to maximize their investments and resources and improve efficiency
- Our health care system and the public will see improvements in care coordination

Progress by the numbers

- ~40,000 clinical end-users
- ~40 participating organizations
- 6 LHINs across Ontario
- ~50% of regional hospital reports
- 100% of regional CCAC documentation
- ~94% of regional lab data (via OLIS)

ConnectingGTA will enable health care providers and organizations to share and access electronic patient information across the care continuum in the region.

The Program is a partnership of the six Local Health Integration Networks – Central, Central East, Central West, Mississauga-Halton, Toronto Central and North Simcoe Muskoka – Canada Health Infoway and eHealth Ontario. Funded by the Province of Ontario, through eHealth Ontario and Canada Health Infoway, ConnectingGTA is a cornerstone information system that will deliver robust, scalable and re-usable components to support the agency’s clinical priorities and accelerate the delivery of electronic health records in Ontario.

For more information contact ConnectingGTA@uhn.ca

1 Ontario Populations Projections Update, Ministry of Finance (Government of Ontario)  

*indicates a regional or provincial data source to be made available in a future release
The ConnectingGTA Approach

As a first for the region, priority clinical data is being centrally stored in a Clinical Data Repository (CDR). The ConnectingGTA Program:

- **Collects priority clinical data** Start with data identified by clinicians as high priority (e.g., discharge summaries, drug information and lab results).

- **Leverages existing electronically collected data** Connect to and store data from existing clinical systems, as well as local, regional and provincial databases and registries.

- **Increases the volume of electronic data available** Planning is underway to increase the volume and type of data available.

A Health Integration Access Layer (HIAL) will integrate and securely share data coming from multiple sources. This means that health organizations can access multiple sources of information through one connection. The ConnectingGTA Program:

- **Aligns with eHealth strategies, Ontario’s eHealth Blueprint and standards** Adhere to Ontario’s eHealth Blueprint as well as the pan-Canadian standards and test key eHealth Ontario technical standards and applications.

- **Integrates data across the care continuum** Allow different types of information to be accessed and displayed by all types of health care organizations and clinicians.

- **Enables timely flow of data** Seamlessly and securely share data across the care continuum.

**EXCHANGE INFORMATION**

**COLLECT INFORMATION**

**ACCESS INFORMATION**

ConnectingGTA will allow clinicians to seamlessly access patient information online. The ConnectingGTA Program:

- **Develops suitable options for user workflows** Allow for near real-time access and analysis of information, including leveraging local investments in information sources (e.g., hospital information systems, electronic medical records).

- **Shares standards-based information** Align with the eHealth Ontario Portal Services Strategy and implement key technology concepts for the broader solution.

- **Provides a single point-of-access** Clinical data will be centrally integrated and supported.
What can ConnectingGTA do for you?

ConnectingGTA will integrate electronic patient information across the care continuum and make it available at the point-of-care to improve the patient and clinician experience.

Each time I get sent for more tests I’m meeting with more doctors and specialists, pieces of my health information are here and there—is anyone keeping track of this?

Enenhances PATIENT care and experience
- Helps provide better and more timely care
- Reduces redundancy and patient frustration
- Supports patient-clinician relationship
- Improves patient transition
- Enhances patient safety and quality of care

Without information I can’t deliver the best care ...I’m frustrated when I don’t have the patient’s results—this paper-based system makes it difficult to provide the highest quality of care to my patients.

Improves CLINICIAN productivity and satisfaction
- Improves efficiency of clinical decision-making
- Allows more time for patient care by reducing the administrative burden
- Increases the ability to monitor patient health outcomes
- Provides electronic access to integrated health data for authorized health care providers
- Supports inter-professional care and coordination of services

Learn more about ConnectingGTA
Please click on the following links to view the
ConnectingGTA Overview Video
ConnectingGTA Testimonial Video
ConnectingGTA...improving patient care

Access to information is critical in order to improve care coordination but there are significant barriers to information exchange.

Improves ORGANIZATIONAL efficiency and capacity
- Improve the ability to manage, coordinate and plan care delivery
- Delivers cost-savings, making an integrated information exchange feasible and sustainable
- Maximizes human and financial resources—saving time and money that can be better dedicated to patient care
- Facilitates implementation and adoption of future IM/IT initiatives

From admission to discharge, patients in Ontario go through 230 interactions with different care providers. Patients and care providers often re-record patient information asking patients to repeat their stories over and over again.

Improves SYSTEM coordination and capacity
- Improve the ability to better manage, coordinate and plan care
- Accelerates the development and delivery of an Electronic Health Record
- Delivers functional IT elements that can be leveraged for other health initiatives
- Provides opportunity to better use human and financial resources

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1 Flo Collaborative (2007) Transforming from Acute Care to Subsequent Care — The Role for Discharge Planning, OHAchieve