



eHealth Newsletter

iEHR and PLIS Production Prototype Release

Early in 2009, the interoperable Electronic Health Record (iEHR) and Provincial Laboratory Information Solution (PLIS) production prototype will begin testing and clinical data validation at the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).

Using the prototype's eHealth Viewer, clinicians at the PHSA will be able to view lab data in B.C.'s EHR for the first time. This will make it possible for clinicians to vet the EHR service viewer tool in an early state, yielding valuable feedback for the iEHR-PLIS project team to incorporate into future releases.

This release prototypes the core foundation of eHealth's EHR service, including:

- The Health Information Access Layer (HIAL) that enforces security and compliance rules;
- A lab information system feeding lab test results into the HIAL (in this case, PHSA's Sunquest system);
- The PLIS Repository receiving and storing lab test results;
- Client and provider identifiers validating against the eHealth Client and Provider Registries;
- An eHealth Viewer implemented at PHSA's Centre for Disease Control lab; an eHealth Service Desk and;
- Two data centres to support the prototype, the Vancouver Information Data Centre production site and Calgary Information Data Centre test site.

In order to protect privacy, B.C.'s EHR will use disclosure directives to control appropriate access, use and disclosure of personal health information. For the prototype, the small group of clinicians who will be viewing data already have access to that data within PHSA. Disclosure directives will be implemented when the EHR is expanded beyond the initial Provincial Laboratory Information Solution pilot.

"I am excited by the prospect of seeing our new systems work in a test environment," said HSIMT Assistant Deputy Minister Elaine McKnight. "This is a tremendous example of teamwork between the staff at PHSA, Sun Microsystems of B.C. and the Ministry."

In support of patient privacy and patient safety the project has adopted an incremental approach to implementation which allows the teams to ensure systems are working as designed and that support processes are in place before deploying further.

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*Project news from eHealth
for health professionals and health
information management teams*

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eHealth Privacy

The privacy and security of personal health records is an essential requirement for any eHealth initiative. In B.C., the *eHealth Personal Health Information Access and Protection of Privacy Act* provides the legislative framework that governs the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information in electronic health records.

As we move toward implementing B.C.'s EHR, privacy provisions related to information access, auditing system use and a citizen's ability to mask information will be deployed as an integral part of the EHR.

Registries Update

The Registries Integration Project ensures that British Columbia's Client Registry and Provider Registries can support B.C.'s EHR.

The first of two registries releases was moved into production on November 17th, 2008. Release 1 focused on the registry application enhancements needed to integrate the registries with the HIAL and provide the performance and availability required by HIAL users. Congratulations to:

- The eHealth RI team who took care of project management, business analysis, and project administration;
- The CGI team who developed and tested the application software; and
- The WTS team who acquired, installed and are now maintaining the new equipment and environments.

eHealth Operations Based at PHSA

The first release of the iEHR-PLIS production prototype establishes the eHealth Operations group at PHSA, providing the following services:

- Service Desk;
- Privacy Services;
- Technical Services;
- Data Quality and Standards; and
- Identity Management.

The group will grow over time, as more users connect to the HIAL. B.C.'s project team is working closely with PHSA to ensure service quality.

Planning for 2009

The next iEHR-PLIS release will include:

- Lab report results distribution;
- eHealth viewer strategy and deployment;
- Clinical results inbox;
- Integration with each Health Authority and private lab information systems; and
- Lab results trending.

The project team is working closely with PHSA to determine how broader access to the EHR will be deployed at PHSA. The team is also working to identify the next Health Authority to onboard to the EHR.



Panorama Update

Panorama is a Pan-Canadian health surveillance system funded by Canada Health Infoway. B.C. is managing this project on behalf on all Canadian jurisdictions. Panorama's six modules include communicable disease, outbreak, immunization, materials / vaccine inventory, notifications and work management. Panorama will give Canadian public health professionals the ability to collect, share and analyze health information for managing communicable diseases like SARS. It will enable them to quickly respond to epidemic-prone and emerging disease threats, as outbreaks move across provincial / territorial boundaries and reduce the impact on people's health and on provincial and national economies.

Acceptance testing was complete in mid-November and Panorama is now available to Canadian jurisdictions via "sandbox" environments so they can begin configuration activities.

Playing in the Sandbox

Jurisdictions are using the sandbox environments to kick start their configuration activities before signing a product license and taking Panorama into their own infrastructures.

The advantage of this strategy is that it allows jurisdictions to move ahead with tailoring their instances of Panorama while they are working on provisioning their environments; reducing the risk for those jurisdictions with concerns about gaps between Panorama and their unique business requirements,

and providing support and a stable environment for jurisdictions to "get their feet wet" with Panorama. Four environments have been set up. One of the sandboxes has already been taken up by Ontario who began using it in late September. The other sandboxes will be deployed to jurisdictions either singly or shared as their implementation efforts proceed.

Deploying Panorama

Panorama deployment plans vary across Canada.

- Ontario is planning to phase in Panorama, with the Materials / Vaccine Inventory and Immunization modules being deployed first.
- BC plans to deploy an instance of Panorama's Communicable Disease and Outbreak modules that meets all of BC's and Yukon's business requirements in late 2009, at the BC Centre for Disease Control. In June 2010, BC will implement a full functional instance of Panorama including HL7 messaging functions and linkages to Provider and Client Registries as well as the Provincial Laboratory Information Solution, ready for use by both BC and Yukon public health professionals.
- Nova Scotia has published a request for proposals and is planning to implement all of Panorama – without any linkages. They are likely to have their first phase live in late 2009.
- Other jurisdictions will be moving forward once their planning is complete and resources in place.



eHealth Newsletter

eHealth Leaders – Don Henkelman, Executive Director, the Integration Infrastructure Program in the Office of the Chief Information Officer; member of the iEHR-PLIS Steering Committee and a part of the Province-Sun Joint Operations Committee

The eHealth Leaders column is published in every edition of this newsletter, featuring health professionals who are leaders in contributing to making eHealth a reality in BC.

From his early days in data analysis at the BC Cancer Research Centre to systems development at the BC Cancer Agency (BCCA) to Chief Information Officer for the Provincial Health Services Authority, Don Henkelman's vision has remained consistent: to automate the clinical record, bringing together information from a variety of sources to support optimal patient care.

During his time at BCCA, Don was instrumental in developing the Cancer Agency Information System (CAIS) – one of the first electronic record systems deployed in multiple facilities across BC. Treating cancer patients has to include sharing the many elements of the record across many facilities. "In the mid 1990s, most vendors had not seen systems like CAIS," he says. "Now, we expect information and access from a variety of locations."

Today, Don is the Executive Director of the Province's Integration Infrastructure Program (IIP) at the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), seconded from his role at PHSA. The IIP is developing the Information Access Layer (IAL) – using the iEHR project's Health Information Access Layer and its components. Don's long-time vision for health information sharing is to enable coordinated, secure electronic access for BC citizens.

Don is working closely with the iEHR-PLIS project and the Ministry of Health Service's Health Sector IM/IT division to ensure that the eHealth infrastructure is designed and implemented with the expanded role of supporting the IIP kept in mind.

In addition to his many years of working with clinicians to improve health information sharing, Don is motivated by his physician-spouse who lives with those information challenges each day.

While recognizing the changing dynamic for health professionals and their practice and patient care that eHealth will bring, as well as the on-going need to balance information sharing with privacy and security requirements; Don is optimistic about the long-term goals for eHealth and believes that there will be a tangible EHR in place in British Columbia sooner, rather than later.

"We have to be patient and realistic because these big projects take time", Don says, "but we are on the verge of something really special here."



Don Henkelman, eHealth Leader