

How CST will benefit community health care providers



Dr. Bruce Long is a former CST Chief Medical Information Officer for VCH and PHC and an Emergency Department physician at Lions Gate Hospital

Clinical & Systems Transformation (CST) is a joint undertaking between VCH, PHSA and PHC to complete a significant transformation of clinical practices and systems. The project spans several areas of the continuum of care, including: acute care, inpatient and outpatient units, ambulatory care and residential care across VCH, PHSA and PHC.

The CST project will have some benefits for community physicians and other health care providers, including improved access to patient reports and other outputs.

Improved access to patient information

Our new shared clinical information system will be made accessible to community care physicians and health care providers employed by, or with privileges at, VCH, PHSA or PHC. This system will also be accessible remotely over a virtual private network (VPN), a shared network that enables users to send and receive data securely across the internet.

Dr. Bruce Long is enthusiastic about the benefits the new system will bring to community care providers. “Currently, community care physicians have limited access to inpatient information, which they must retrieve through multiple systems across VCH, PHSA and PHC,” he says.

Following the implementation of the new clinical information system, eligible community care physicians will have the ability to update patient information. They will also be able to place orders, as well as document and review diagnostic results and images.

“Physicians will be able to see a more complete patient record, rather than just pieces of it, in real time from their offices,” says Dr. Long.

Increased access to electronic patient reports

Through CST and related initiatives the range of electronic reports available to physicians and other health care providers will increase following the implementation of CST. In addition to outpatient labs and transcribed reports, physicians will now receive consult reports, discharge summaries and medical imaging reports. These reports will be distributed to physicians through the Excelleris system, available to any community health care provider at no cost. “Improved electronic reporting will benefit all community care providers by enhancing the transition of patients from inpatient and ambulatory services back into primary care,” says Dr. Long.

The new clinical information system will become available to eligible community health care providers as it goes live in their region.

Background information

The Clinical and Systems Transformation project is a joint initiative of three health organizations: Vancouver Coastal Health, Provincial Health Services Authority and Providence Health Care. The project is designed to transform health care delivery systems and processes to improve the quality and consistency of the patient and caregiver experience. CST will support the health organizations in establishing common clinical and process standards, including work flows, order sets, clinical guidelines integrated plans of care and a common electronic health record. This clinical transformation will be supported by the implementation of a clinical information system that will replace aging existing systems. The project will be implemented in stages across the health organizations.

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