

What is Clinical & Systems Transformation trying to achieve?

If we can make it easier to care for patients with complex needs, and make our complex health care system simpler and more accessible, it's a much better experience for everybody.

Caring for patients – that's why we all come to work each day. Our health care professionals work hard to provide the best possible care, and they deserve the information, tools and systems to help them to do that work in a more efficient way.

Right now, teams of health care staff from VCH, PHSA and PHC are working together to understand and decide what the new clinical practices and clinical information system should look like.

There are, however, some things we know now. We know we're working towards HIMSS Level 5 for acute inpatient and outpatient departments. HIMSS is the Healthcare Information Management and Systems Society, and HIMSS Level 5 is a level on their 'EMR Adoption Model'.

But what does that mean?

It's a global standard for integrated health information systems. The higher the level, the more integrated the system is, meaning that you're using technology to enable good, safe practice.

At HIMSS Level 5, a clinical information system is capable of:

- storing medical information centrally
- automating flow sheets
- sharing digital medical images
- alerting users to possible problems (e.g.: drug-to-drug interactions, allergies)
- allowing care providers to enter orders into a computerized system (CPOE)
- making standard clinical protocols available automatically, and
- closed loop medication management.

To find out more, please email info@CSTproject.ca.

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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