![Clinical + Systems Transformation — Our path to smarter, seamless care](logo)

What is the clinical information system that CST will implement?

Vicky Crompton is CST Executive Director and Transformation Lead, PHSA

A clinical information system is a computer system designed for collecting, storing, amending and retrieving information relevant to health care delivery.

Soon, VCH, PHSA and PHC will begin moving towards new standardized clinical practices and a shared clinical information system based on software developed by Cerner. Sites will go live over three years, in a sequence based on clinical complexity, scope of service, geographic considerations and the current technologies in place.

"CST is building an integrated electronic patient health record, with alerts and decision support built in," explains Vicky Crompton.

Some examples of what this means for health care professionals

- An electronic patient chart at their fingertips – no more searching for the chart or making manual updates on paper
- Care teams can see an admitted patient's chart when they're still in the Emergency Department, before they have arrived on the unit
- Staff can quickly find information about the patient's condition, allergies, medications and previous medical history
- Staff can read charts and orders on a screen instead of deciphering handwriting
- Staff and physicians with admitting privileges will be able to place orders remotely

"The software is tailored for health care, and includes modules for specialty areas such as radiology, surgery, emergency, medication management and clinical documentation," says Vicky. "There's a track record of successful implementations across North America. 30 to

40% of clinical settings in Canada use Cerner, including North York General Hospital and London Health Sciences Centre."

We will take the software and localize it to meet the specific needs of VCH, PHSA and PHC. The clinical design teams are making sure that the system enables patient flow and provides the information needed by patients and clinicians. They're working closely with the technical teams to put the pieces together in the right way.

"I've always believed in the importance of electronic health records and the benefits they deliver," says Vicky. "Accurate information is critical to providing good quality and safe patient care. Our world-class health care professionals need to have access to the relevant information in a timely manner in order to do their best work."

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 safety, 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.

A joint initiative of: