Clinical Data Conversion

What is Data Conversion?

Data conversion is about how historical health information is selected and managed for transfer to the Connect Care clinical information system (CIS). Considerations include which information to transfer, how it should be transformed, how much to include, and how to make it accessible.

Why is Data Conversion Needed?

Connect Care consolidates many health information systems into an integrated CIS. This can streamline clinician experiences while promoting continuity of health care information, relationships and guidance. Achieving full systems integration means that the functions of many legacy health information systems are replaced by the Connect Care CIS at launch.

Where the information associated with a legacy system is important to clinical decision-making, providers will need access to some or all of its data. Legacy health information may be **converted** for integration into the CIS. This ensures that the data adheres to common definitions, is appropriately linked to health events, and can be combined in ways that promote better health with better information. Where conversion is less than complete, providers may additionally need **access**, for a period of time, to the legacy health information system or a suitable archive to look up historical data when required.

Why not Just Transfer all Data to Connect Care?

Ideally, the Connect Care CIS would absorb all health data ever gathered by AHS. Unfortunately, historical data may not adhere to normal ranges or other properties needed to assure safe use of clinical decision supports, documentation tools and quality improvement aids. Messy data could clutter or confuse Connect Care. Also, not all data has equal clinical value.

How are Data Conversion Decisions Guided?

Conversion principles emphasize assessment of clinical need, data quality, compatibility, safety, cost, validation and training implications. A Data Conversion Committee reached out to physicians, clinicians, leaders and technical experts across Alberta to get input about data conversion strategies and choices. All deliberations and decisions are shared via a data conversion portal.

What will be Converted?

Currently, about 14 data types from about 30 clinical information systems are in-scope for conversion, most with historical data converted back to July 2017; documented and updated online.

How will Data not Converted be Accessed?

Not all historical data in legacy health information systems can or should be converted. That does not mean that it will not be available to clinicians and decision-makers. Important information will be accessible for as long as needed to support care. Access options include finding information in:

- The Alberta Netcare Portal launched to a specific patient record from within Connect Care.
- Non-Connect Care health information systems maintained in a read-only state.
- Abstracts of high-value information attached to the Connect Care record.
- Enterprise data archives either linked to Connect Care or otherwise accessible.

Where can more information be found?

Integration-Interoperation-Interfacing	FAQ – Data Conversion	Byte – Scope Management
Contact: cc.conversion@ahs.ca	Principles – Data Conversion	Principles – Scope Management

Alberta Health Services