Scope Management

What is Scope Management?

The Alberta Health Services (AHS) Connect Care mission is to deliver best care and outcomes through an integrated, comprehensive and standardized clinical information system (CIS). Many legacy health information systems will be consolidated into a single CIS that streamlines stakeholder experiences while promoting informational, relational and knowledge continuity.

Building a seamless health information ecosystem will force difficult decisions. Many long-standing applications will be replaced. Some "best-of-breed" solutions will be retired in favour of adequate CIS functionality in order to better integrate across geography, generations and the continuum of care. Once all possible integration is achieved, some important needs will remain unmet. Function and safety gaps will need to be filled by interoperating or interfacing with pre-existing or new health information systems.

Scope management is about identifying important clinical, functional or safety gaps, prioritizing gap-mitigation strategies and filling gaps with systems that work best with the Connect Care CIS.

What Principles Guide Integration-vs-Niche Trade-offs?

Connect Care has ratified scope management and system build principles. These include putting patients and families first, integrating across the care continuum and avoiding unhelpful variation. Integration is favoured, when possible, over interoperation or interfacing.

Connect Care scope management principles emphasize improvement, equity and consolidation. The top priority is better health care facilitated by CIS adoption wherever and whenever AHS serves. Equity is served by promoting helpful consistency across geography, generations and the continuum of care. And consolidation promotes health information system sustainability by reducing information, relation and guidance fragmentation.

What Strategies Mitigate CIS Function or Safety Gaps?

When important clinical or safety gaps are identified, the first mitigation strategy is to seek development or customization within the CIS. This promotes a fully integrated solution. If integration is impossible or impractical, then database interoperation with a standards-compliant health information system is sought. Where interoperation cannot address unresolved gaps, then standards-compliant interfaces with discrete devices or applications will be sought. The selection of device, application or system will adhere to fair procurement and contracting practices.

Who participates in Scope Management?

Scope-setting and application-fit choices are part of the earliest Connect Care system design activities. Unresolved gaps will emerge during contracting, scope, groundwork and direction-setting. Clinically important gaps are ratified before any third-party system procurement or interoperation is arranged.

Where uncertainty about CIS fit to clinical or business needs emerges, Connect Care Area Councils initiate a gap-analysis process and submit results with recommendations to the Connect Care Program & Design Oversight Committee. If a gap-mitigation strategy remains contentious, standardized decision-requests can be escalated to the Connect Care Executive Committee for final decision-making.

Where can more information be found?

- Connect Care Scope Management Principles
- Key Concept: Integration-Interoperation-Interfacing
- Connect Care Scope Management Presentation
- Connect Care Gap-Mitigation Decision Request Template

Alberta Health Services