



Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network  
Réseau canadien de surveillance sentinelle en soins primaires

## A Primary Care Data Resource

CPCSSN helps family physicians, other health professionals, and decision-makers examine service use and treatment of patients seen in primary care. CPCSSN also helps clinicians monitor chronic disease risk factors (e.g. smoking status or weight gain).

CPCSSN is the first pan-Canadian primary care chronic disease surveillance network to create knowledge from the wealth of clinical data collected by family physicians. It works by gathering data from electronic medical records in family physicians' offices.

### CPCSSN facts at-a-glance

- 11 primary care research networks in 8 provinces & 1 territory
- Over 1200 healthcare providers (50 in BC)
- 1.6 million patients (79,000 in BC)
- Data from 17 EMR systems (4 in BC)
- Validated case-detection algorithms for 8 chronic conditions, more in development
- 130+ research projects using CPCSSN national data; numerous local projects

### Benefits of participation

- Quality improvement tools: access to feedback reports, InQUIRE (Interactive Quality Improvement Reporting Environment), and the DPT (Data Presentation Tool). These tools allow you to visualize your patient information and make comparisons across the clinic, network, and country at no cost.
- Learn details of your practice patterns (e.g. how often you use SSRIs in depression management for younger people; how many of your patients have concurrent Parkinson's disease, depression, and hypertension).
- Compare your practice patterns and chronic disease prevalence with the rest of your clinic and network.
- Collect Mainpro Credits.

### CPCSSN monitors eight chronic conditions

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- COPD
- Depression
- Osteoarthritis
- Dementia
- Epilepsy
- Parkinson's disease
- + more to come!

“The reports allow me to have a better sense of what is happening in my practice and to respond in a timely way.”

DR. GINETTA SALVALAGGIO, PARTICIPATING SENTINEL PHYSICIAN

## Benefits to primary care

- Chronic disease surveillance
- Research and evaluation relevant to practices like yours and community-based primary health care
- Share your EMR data with researchers to facilitate better understanding of patient outcomes in the community. Randomized control trial participants or specialty clinics inform most research, missing out on where the vast majority of care is actually delivered.

## Privacy and security are CPCSSN priorities

- Fully de-identified patient data are merged and safely stored in a highly secure facility.
- No patient identifiers are extracted for CPCSSN.
- During data transfer, both the information itself and the channels through which it travels are encrypted.
- Process approved by a Research Ethics Board in every province in which CPCSSN operates, as well as Health Canada's Research Ethics Board.
- CPCSSN security is the same and in some cases better than your bank and online EMR.

## New CPCSSN developments

BC-CPCSSN will be taking part in an exciting new pilot project to investigate how CPCSSN tools can play a role in connecting the various aspects of patient care as well as providing QI feedback directly to clinicians.

In the longer term the project aims to provide a complete, connected patient medical history that is available for all healthcare providers at every step of the care process, which will lead to improved patient care and increased system efficiency.

## Help build this unique and valuable resource

- Speak with colleagues about CPCSSN.
- Provide information about it to your own organizations.

**For more information and to sign up**  
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## Eleven primary care networks across nine provinces and one territory

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