

## Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN (or HNHB LHIN): ClinicalConnect evolves into more than just an electronic health record

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ClinicalConnect (CC) has evolved very quickly into a robust real-time information delivery system for patient health information across LHIN 3 and 4, with over 2 million patients, 28 regional hospitals, and Oncology & CCAC records. The data is aggregated across 28 hospitals in Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Norfolk, Burlington, Brantford, Kitchener, Cambridge and Guelph as well as the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC).

This provides nurses and other health care professionals within the patient's circle of care to access health information electronically, ultimately providing safer and more efficient care. ClinicalConnect has been a fundamental resource across our LHINs and has been used to make critical clinical decisions surrounding patient care that historically could only be made once a hard copy record was available. These critical care decisions have made significant positive patient outcomes. The healthcare teams across our LHINs are able to review a much more comprehensive patient electronic record including information that helps them;

- provide better and quicker consultations,
- provide appropriate and timely treatments, (speed treatment and diagnosis time)
- improves patient transition across the continuum of care,
- reduces, eliminates or minimizes duplicate medical tests,



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In addition, ClinicalConnect offers community physicians and their teams the ability to access and electronically download patient information from hospitals into the Electronic Medical Records at their office. This results in much quicker access to information for community health teams where previously, the paper copies would need to be mailed or faxed.

ClinicalConnect is also available on mobile devices including Tablets and Smartphones. This allows the healthcare professional to have access to patient information at their finger tips without being tied to a desktop computer. This is valuable both for hospital and community providers. In addition to accessing patient information, ClinicalConnect now has integrated links to valuable resources like the RNAO Best Practice Guidelines and the McMaster Medical Evidence Based Information (MacPlus).

Take a look at the ClinicalConnect Integration Status chart to learn more about the types of information that is aggregated into [ClinicalConnect](#).

Here are some quotes from health care professionals who are using ClinicalConnect and how it is making a difference:

***Faster diagnosis and treatment with ClinicalConnect:***

*"A recent patient visit in Niagara showed blood work with unstable Angina but no heart attack. The cardiologist immediately made the decision to proceed with intervention without waiting for hard copy documentation from the referring physician since it was taking too long. ClinicalConnect had all the information needed to proceed."*

– Corinne Tartaglia, R.N., MScN, Heart Investigation Unit (HIU) - Triage Coordinator

*"ClinicalConnect improves communication and saves clinician time Using Clinical Connect opens the door to one step access to patient information. This not only assists in better communication related to accurate patient information but it also saves the clinician time as it can be accessed from one source. For Health Professionals, ClinicalConnect provides seamless access to the patient health record."*

– Renata Vaughan RRT, Senior Registered Respiratory Therapist

*"ClinicalConnect is a dynamic application that is customized to meet the needs of specific user groups, including nurses, to facilitate broader access to patient information within the circle of care. This provides nurses the ability to see the bigger picture for patient care. It is also invaluable to have the RNAO's Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs) integrated into the ClinicalConnect portal and available right at the point of care. This offers nurse a much more robust application that not only integrates comprehensive patient information but also seamless access to best evidence in their clinical decision making and ultimately elevates the level of care"*

*provided to our patients."*

– Marzena Cran, RN, BSc.N, Education & Development Clinician-ICT

Read more about ClinicalConnect: <http://info.clinicalconnect.ca/>