

PROMIS Information management for better kidney care

PROMIS (Patient Record/Registration and Outcome Management Information System) is the provincial renal care community's information system and the cornerstone of BC Renal Agency activities. It is widely praised and recognized as the only province-wide, integrated registry for kidney disease patients in Canada.

PROMIS leads the country with respect to using data to develop evidence-based benchmarks with input from the community, and supports all aspects of renal care delivery and planning. This sophisticated tool provides real-time, accurate data supporting a broad range of functions, all focused on two key outcomes – better health for people with kidney disease, and the best use of healthcare resources.

With data collected from BC's 37 renal units, PROMIS supports:

- Individual patient management
- Renal unit management
- Continuous quality improvement and research
- Outcomes-based planning.

By incorporating practical clinical tools for individuals and groups, such as computerized prescription generation and renal unit scheduling, and supporting research and resource allocation, PROMIS touches every aspect of renal care delivery. Ultimately PROMIS allows the renal community to describe patterns of disease, drug usage and outcome parameters.

In 2006, Accreditation Canada recognized PROMIS as a “leading practice” in its annual Canadian Health Accreditation Report. Accreditation Canada defines leading practices as “innovative and creative practices or processes that offer an idea or approach that other organizations can replicate.”

Manitoba's renal programs have also recognized the value of PROMIS, deciding to adopt the BCPRA database system after an extensive review of all options. Renal programs in Saskatchewan and Ontario have also expressed interest in PROMIS.

PROMIS Highlights and Achievements

A number of recent PROMIS projects and upgrades have resulted in increased data management capacity for BC's renal community. They include:

Patient Clinical Summary: Improved and expanded PROMIS reporting capabilities

Designer/Flexible Reports: Improved patient navigation, selection and grouping criteria and expanded flexibility of parameter selection to generate various reports

“We have a provincial renal database that most programs wish they had.”

— Renal Manager

The BCPRA must manage personal health information under the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA).



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Electronic Charting: Modules that enable electronic charting and clinic visits management. Our long-term vision is to develop electronic charting components for all renal programs, gradually phasing out paper charting

Train-the-Trainer Initiative: Increased support for data entry

Vascular Access: Modules designed and developed to track creation and monitoring of vascular access

Comorbidities: Redesigned modules for assessing patient comorbidities and related events. Almost all patients have a comorbidity assessment in PROMIS, which enables the renal community to more clearly and reliably define outcomes

Medication Reconciliation: New medication reconciliation report tools, as well as a tutorial

Data Management Improvements: Set of reports and procedures to regularly monitor data quality

User Training/Support: Increased hours for our PROMIS help desk, and an expanded training program and manual

Protection of Privacy

As a public body, the BCPRA must comply with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) in terms of collection, use, retention, disclosure and security of personal information. For BCPRA, all patient information is stored within the PROMIS database, which serves as the information link among hospital outpatient clinics and dialysis units, community dialysis units and doctors' offices. Information in the PROMIS database is securely stored at the BCPRA central site, and its use is strictly controlled.

Patients' personal information is accessed for the following purposes only:

- Ongoing care
- To determine eligibility for services
- To obtain feedback regarding quality of care received
- Teaching and education
- Research, as outlined in Section 35 of the FOIPPA
- As directed under the law, court order, or subpoena as authorized under the FOIPPA.

Only people involved in a patient's direct care are allowed to see his or her information, and they can see only the specific information they need. The agency takes all reasonable measures to ensure personal information is treated in a confidential manner, is only available to authorized staff for the purpose for which it is collected, and is stored securely.

When necessary, relevant reports are sent to a patient's physicians or other health care agencies/facilities involved in his or her care to ensure continuous and consistent medical treatment. Except for the uses described above, information is not disclosed to any other parties without informed consent.

Collection of this information is authorized by the *Hospital Act* and its Regulations. Other legislation, including but not limited to the *Health Authorities Act*, the *Hospital Insurance Act*, the *Continuing Care Facilities Act*, the *Health Act* and the *Mental Health Act* also allow us to collect and to use patient information.