What are the data sharing implications in a clinic with partial participation?

In multidisciplinary clinics with family practitioners, specialty care providers and allied health providers, which may share the same patients, which providers choose to participate in CII/CPAR impacts how information is sent to Alberta Netcare. It seems intuitive that for CII/CPAR registered providers, information from all of their patient encounters should be shared to Alberta Netcare. This is not necessarily the case. The easiest way to think about this is that within a clinic (or more correctly, within the clinic's EMR) both the Encounter Provider and the Primary Provider(PP) must have given their consent (through CII/CPAR participation) in order for encounter information to be shared to Alberta Netcare.

For TELUS EMRs, the "**Primary Provider**" field designates the provider for which the 'rule' looks to for permission to share the record. A primary provider field can contain the name of a participant in CII, a non-participant or be left blank[1]. **Encounter provider** refers to the provider in the scheduler seeing the patient for a visit.

Looking at some examples can help:

1. **Both the Encounter Provider and the Primary Provider are registered for CII/CPAR:**
   In this instance both providers have given permission for their information to be shared so the encounter information can be sent to Alberta Netcare. This applies when a provider sees one of their own patients.

   Example:

   Clinic A consists of Dr. Blue, Dr. Green and Dr. Red. They practice in their own EMR instance (not shared with another practice).

   Drs. Blue, Green and Red, all sign up for CII/CPAR to submit panels, encounters and, for Dr. Red, consults. No matter which provider a patient has a visit with, the encounter and/or consult* report would flow to Netcare.

   *Consult reports must meet condition of being 'selected' to flow.

2. Clinic B consists of Dr. Orange and Dr. Yellow. Dr. Orange signs up for CII/CPAR but Dr. Yellow does not.
   Example:

   - In Clinic B, the primary provider field in the EMR either contains Dr. Yellow, Dr. Orange or may be blank (a non-panelled patient).

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[1] Once the contents of the primary provider field have been switched from blank to a provider, it cannot be switched back. Some clinics have also created non-person providers for paneling purposes such as 'Out of Town' or 'Not Paneled'.

- When Dr. Orange has visits with their own patients (as designated by the Primary Provider field in the EMR) or for a patient where the primary provider field is blank, encounters and/or consult reports will flow to Netcare.

- If Dr. Orange has a patient visit with one of Dr. Yellow's patient's the encounter or consult report will not flow (because Dr. Yellow is not participating they need to give consent for visit information with any of their patient's to flow)

- If Dr. Yellow has a patient visit with one of Dr. Orange's patient's or a patient whose primary provider field is blank, the encounter will NOT flow to the CED in Netcare, nor would a consult report flow to Netcare.

3. **The Encounter Provider is a locum working for a CII/CPAR registered Primary Provider:**
   The encounter information will be shared according to the rules above as if the locum were the Primary Provider.

4. Examples and considerations in an EMR instance shared by more than one clinic.
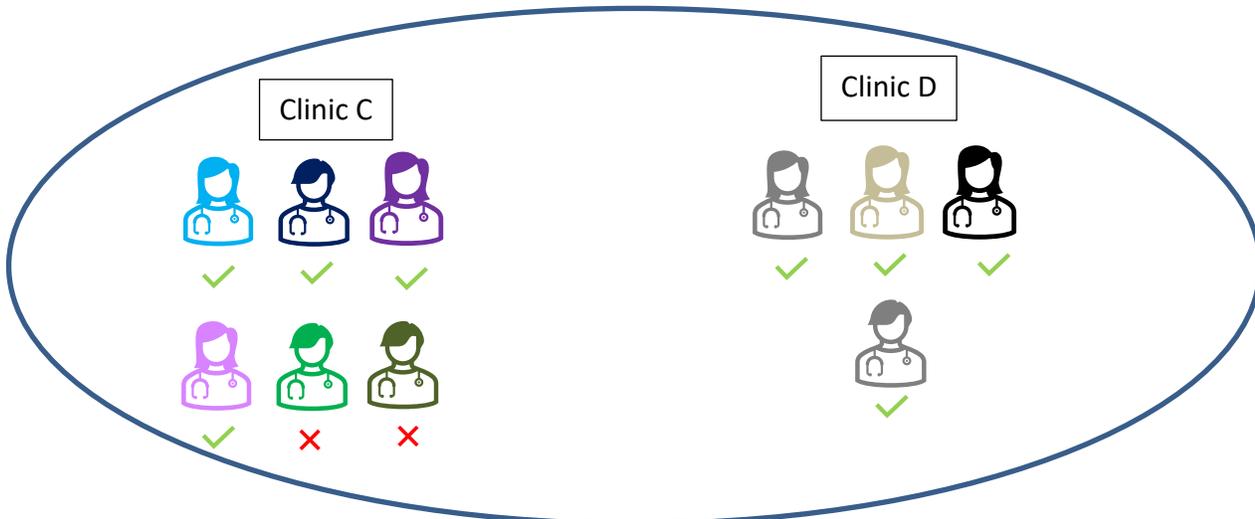
Clinic C and Clinic D are part of a single business organization and both clinics are on the same instance of a TELUS EMR. Primary providers work in Clinic C, each of whom has panels. In Clinic C two physicians are not participating in CII, Dr. Green and Dr. Forest. Clinic D is a group of specialist care providers who have signed up to submit consult reports to Alberta Netcare. The specialist care providers in Clinic D receive referrals from local providers in the area, including providers in Clinic C.

If any providers in either Clinic C or Clinic D who have signed up for CII has a visit with a patient where their demographics indicate Dr. Green or Dr. Forest as the primary provider in the EMR, **neither the encounter nor a consult report will flow to Alberta Netcare.**

If any provider that has signed up for CII has a visit with a patient where the 'primary provider' field in the EMR is blank, the encounter will flow to the CED and/or the consult report will flow to Netcare.

None of Dr. Green nor Dr. Forest's patient visits will be captured and sent to the Community Encounter Digest in Alberta Netcare.

Here is the same information in a table format:

	Encounter Provider Registered?	Primary Provider Registered?	Is the encounter sent to Netcare?	Why?
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	• Both providers have given permission for the data to be shared
2	No	Yes	No	• Even though the Primary Provider has given consent, the encounter provider has not, so the information is not shared
3	Yes	No	No	• The Encounter Provider has given consent but the Primary Provider who is the custodian of the chart has not. • Without custodial consent the information cannot be shared
4	No	No	No	• Obviously if neither provider has given consent the information will not be shared
5	Yes	PP is blank	Yes	• The Encounter Provider has agreed to share their information
6	No	PP is blank	No	• There is no agreement here to share information
7	Locum may or may not be registered	Yes	Yes	• As long as the locum is set up properly in the EMR and is working on behalf of a CII/CPAR registered Primary Provider the encounter information will be shared according to the rules above

Bottom line:

While participation in CII/CPAR is voluntary, in clinics where more than the participating primary provider has visits with the patient, the clinic needs to understand the implications of encounters or consult reports not flowing to Netcare for visits with the patients of non-participating providers.

PROBLEM:

We are a Wolf clinic and have noticed that encounters for un-paneled patients that are having visits with our physicians that are signed up for CII are NOT showing up in the Community Encounter Digest.

What are the fundamental principles of what makes a patient part of a primary provider's panel?
It is their assignment of Primary Service Provider AND their status in the EMR.

Some Wolf clinics have created a primary provider for un-paneled patients called "Walk-in" or "Out of Town". This allows them to have a process to manage patients NOT assigned to a panel.

Conditions for patient information to flow to the Community Encounter Digest:
- Patient is assigned in their demographics/patient maintenance to a primary service provider participating for CII (signed-up and live)
- The encounter provider is participating in CII

The conditions for a patient to be part of the panel to CPAR is that:
- A provider participating in CPAR is in the Primary Service Provider field
- Patient has a Status that is configured to submit to CPAR (typically, this is "Active")
- Patient has a last visit date
- Patient has a date in Patient Data Verified
- Demographics are valid (as compared to Person Directory)

So what is the solution when you are assigning un-paneled patients to a Primary Service Provider of "Out of Town"?

1) **Use a status to identify un-paneled patients.** If a patient has a Status that is not configured to send to CPAR, the information will still send to CII. So it is that simple. You can create a status such as "Walk-In" or "Out of Town", and ensure it is NOT configured as one of the statuses to send to CPAR. Then assign this status to your un-paneled patents though the Primary Provider field in Patient Maintenance may contain the name of a CII participating physician or NP. The patient encounters WILL send to the CED in Netcare but not to CPAR. The provider displayed on the CED in Netcare will be the actual provider in the EMR scheduler who saw the patient.

2) **Register the Non-Person Provider for CII**. If a fundamental principle of how you panel is that you have created a primary provider called "Walk-in" or "Out of Town" and are not ready to work with statuses for panel purposes there is another workaround. The clinic can submit a confirmation of participation form (CoP) for the non-person provider (e.g. "Walk-In" or "Out of Town") to be registered for CII. Once the non-person provider is registered and configured, the data will flow for visits with the Primary Service Provider as "Out of Town" or "Walk-In". The provider displayed on the CED in Netcare will be the actual provider in the EMR scheduler who had a visit with the patient (the provider that saves and locks the visit).

For reference the primary provider fields in TELUS EMRs:

Med Access: Primary Provider

Notes:

- If physician or nurse practitioner in the Primary Provider field is signed up for CII, encounters will flow to the CED in Netcare. Selected consults will flow to Netcare. This could include non-person providers such as 'Out of Town'
- If physician or nurse practitioner in the Primary Provider field is signed up for CPAR, Patient Status is configured to select which statuses to include on a provider's panel for CPAR

PS Suite: Patient's MD/NP

Notes:
- If physician or nurse practitioner in the Patient's MD/NP field is signed up for CII, encounters will flow to the CED in Netcare and selected consults will flow to Netcare.
- If the 'Exclude from CPAR Panel' box is checked, the patient will not be included on a CPAR panel

Wolf: Primary Service Provider

Notes:

- If physician or nurse practitioner in the Primary Service Provider field is signed up for CII, encounters will flow to the CED and selected consults will flow to Netcare. This could include non-person providers such as 'Out of Town'
- If physician or nurse practitioner in the Primary Provider field is signed up for CPAR, Patient Status is configured to choose which statuses to include on a provider's panel for CPAR