

Advancing an Essential Clinical Data Set in Canada

The use of evidence-based clinical data standards ensures the collection of consistent, comparable clinical information from patients. Standardized data provides value to patients, clinicians and administrators and helps improve the health-care system. Standardized clinical data can support accountability by providing information that highlights effective care and reveals opportunities for improvement.

'Data rich but information poor'

Consistent data is required because "if we cannot name it, we cannot control it, finance it, teach it, research it or put it into public policy."¹

Collect data once, use it for multiple purposes

- Nurse assesses essential standardized clinical information
- Nurse updates patient's electronic health record
- One-time data collection improves the patient experience



Share standardized, comparable data

- Supports consistent communication among health-care providers
- Improves care planning, clinical decision-making and care delivery
- Facilitates easier and safer patient transfers



Data gathering process

- **Over 2.7 million patients** admitted to acute care every year
- **200 data items assessed** on average for each admission
- **40-60 minutes** per admission spent by nurses collecting data

According to one study,² only about 25% of this data is useful. We can do better.



Refine clinical practice decisions for continuous quality improvement

- Data informs further refinement of clinical care
- Data informs the most effective use of health-care resources (e.g., nurse staffing and skill mix)



Evaluate evidence from standardized clinical data

- For monitoring clinical outcomes
- Informs effective clinical practice guidelines and health-care policy
- Supports clinical care and health system transformation

What can you do?

Support and advocate for clinical data standards in your organization. Learn more and get involved by visiting cna-aiic.ca/informatics & cnaia.ca/standards.

¹ Clark, J., & Lang, N. (1992). Nursing's next advance: an international classification for nursing practice. *International Journal of Nursing*, 39(4), 102-112, 128. ² Effken, J., & Weaver, C. (July, 2016). Spring cleaning — the informatics version. *Online Journal of Nursing Informatics*, 20(2). Retrieved from <http://www.himss.org/ojni>