

Agreement on Atlantic Cooperation in Health Information Management

The Premiers, at their 49th Annual Premiers Conference in Quebec City, August 1999, requested all Ministers of Health to work cooperatively to develop practical solutions to sustainability of the Canadian health and health care system. At a subsequent Council of Maritime Premiers meeting agreement was reached to enhance strategic linkages in cooperation.

Each Atlantic Province is faced with similar challenges to achieve this objective. However, the Maritime and Atlantic Provinces have a history of cooperation in the health sector.

The Atlantic Representatives fo ACHI agree that improved patient care and health information management are the key results of any collaboration. As such Deputy Ministers' approval is sought to proceed with the following actions:

1. The establishment of **Health Infostructure Atlantic (HIA)**. This body will be comprised of persons from each of the four provincial health ministries and will meet regularly to share health information/technology initiatives and to identify projects or strategies for collaborative development and use of best practices.
2. Development of a comprehensive understanding of each Atlantic province's context and priorities for development of a short list of potential areas for cooperation. Appendix A (attached) are items which may have potential benefits for Atlantic cooperation and for funding under the Health Canada CHIPP Fund.

This agreement dated this 12th day of January 2000 identifies areas around health information and infostructure which will be explored jointly and cooperatively for their potential to enhance the Atlantic Region's capacity to develop quality information systems for provincial management decision-making, planning and Regional/national comparisons.

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Appendix A

Areas for Sharing and Possible Collaborative Project Development

Areas for Sharing of Information and Best Practices - Regional Opportunities:

There are a number of opportunities identified within the region that need to be reviewed in more detail such as: unique patient identifier; common legislation on issues of privacy (C-6); case management assessment tools; clinical home care; single entry; immunization registry; MIS guidelines; common vendor platform for HIS (Meditech); and data ware housing.

Areas for Potential Collaborative Project Development for Federal Funding

- ! Picture Archiving Communication System (Radiology) - PACS
- ! Common HIS Standards
- ! Telehealth
- ! Public Health Surveillance e.g. communicable diseases
- ! Emergency Room - Standard Management Information System
- ! Electronic Health Records