How can you get involved?

Your participation is important to the success of CPCSSN.

Contact us today to find out how your expertise can help CPCSSN in changing the Canadian health care landscape.

For more information go to: http://www.cpcssn.ca

Anita Lambert-Lanning  
BA, MLS  
Manager CPCSSN project,  
The College of Family Physicians of Canada  
905-629-0900 x417  
all@cfpc.ca

Richard Birtwhistle  
MD, MSc, CCFP, FCFP  
CPCSSN Chair & Director,  
Centre for Studies in Primary Care  
Queen’s University  
rick.birtwhistle@cspc.queensu.ca

Why should you get involved?

Sentinel Physicians:  
Physicians who join CPCSSN will contribute to a dynamic new research initiative designed to help address major chronic diseases that currently impact the lives of many Canadians. In return for their participation, physicians will receive:

- CPCSSN status reports
- Updates on related disease research
- Mainpro-C credits from The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)

Researchers/Research Networks:  
CPCSSN’s creation of a complex new research platform will facilitate and encourage innovation and excellence in primary health care research across Canada. This pan-Canadian network will also promote the sharing of related knowledge and information among researchers and the broader research community.
What is the Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN)?

CPCSSN is a database of digital information on health; specifically on chronic diseases. With local research ethic board approvals, a network of family doctors from across the country, who serve as CPCSSN sentinels, have agreed to allow CPCSSN to collect information about their patients from their electronic medical records. CPCSSN functions under the sponsorship of The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) through a funding arrangement with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI) is a prime stakeholder in CPCSSN.

How does CPCSSN work?

Medical information is extracted and then sent to a regional CPCSSN server. No patient names are extracted and all other direct identifiers are removed at the regional server. Data is then transferred to the central repository where it is combined with data collected from all the other regional centres in Canada. The data remains safely stored in a highly secure facility at Queen’s University.

Which regional networks are involved so far?

CPCSSN network is growing. Currently, the following nine (9) primary care practice based research networks (PCPBRNs) across Canada are contributing data to CPCSSN:

- **AFPRN** – AB
  Alberta Family Practice Research Network
- **SAPCReN** – AB
  Southern Alberta Primary Care Research Network
- **MaPCReN** – MB
  Manitoba Primary Care Research Network
- **DELPHI** – ON
  Deliver Primary Healthcare Information Project
- **NorTReN** – ON
  North Toronto Research Network
- **CSPC** – ON
  Centre for Studies in Primary Care
- **CSSSL** – QC
  Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Laval
- **MaRNNet-FP** – NS, NB, PEI
  Maritime Family Practice Research Network
- **APBRN** – NL
  Atlantic Practice Based Research Network

Why is CPCSSN important?

One in three Canadians has a chronic health condition, such as diabetes, hypertension and arthritis, and numbers are on the rise. At the same time, there is a strong desire in Canada to have family physicians use electronic medical records to maintain information about their patients. There has never been a better time for CPCSSN to improve the lives of Canadians living with chronic diseases. Furthermore, it is CPCSSN’s objective to help our health-care system become more sustainable.

How will CPCSSN help Canadians?

**Significant benefits include:**
1. A better understanding of chronic disease management in primary care
2. Sharing CPCSSN reports with healthcare providers, researchers, healthcare planners and governments, ideally leading to improved chronic disease care in Canada
3. Maximizing return on investment in electronic medical record keeping