

Transitioning FAQs

Transitioning existing patient records into the new EHR



Are all the existing health records being uploaded into the new EHR?

Eventually we plan to have all existing health records uploaded into the EHR, but it is a process that will take time. We know, for example, that all existing health records will not be uploaded for the first activation of the EHR at NRGH and Dufferin Place.

What will happen to those paper-based records that we know will still be needed when we transition to the fully-integrated EHR?

Single-document scanning will happen in targeted locations defined by the clinical workflow. This is when a single piece of paper can be scanned into the EHR in a PDF format. We expect it to be primarily used for external documents coming into Island Health (e.g., BC Ambulance record). Our goal is to always strive to reduce the number of paper-based records, as PDF documents have very limited search-ability within the EHR.

Will we not have charts at all, then?

The goal with the EHR is to move away from paper-based charts. Moving to a totally electronic health record will take time; paper-based records will continue to be used until they are all transitioned to the EHR. As more patient information is entered into the EHR we will use fewer paper-based records.

As all areas are not transitioning at the same time, there will still be the need to share information using the historical data in the paper-based records.

What happens if a patient gets transferred from a site that has gone live to a site that hasn't gone live yet?

All documentation from a facility that has transitioned to the new EHR can be viewed by all other sites. This means the viewing healthcare workers and physicians will have access to the sending sites complete medical chart.