



Canada Health Infoway

Enabling pan-Canadian interoperability and standards through Infoway-CIHI collaboration

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Purpose

Collaborative approach for Infoway and CIHI to enable improved access to health data in digital format to Canadians, providers and for health system management

Need for pan-Canadian digital health Interoperability

Health system data doesn't flow seamlessly across the care continuum — whether care is delivered in-person or virtually. Provider and patient access to a comprehensive health record is limited and information is often not available in a standardized, timely and comparable way for health system management.



- Transitions of care can be inconsistent as information does not follow the patient
- Gaps in health information can delay care and create safety issues
- There is limited access to personal health data in digital format



- Gaps in health data and availability of standardized data result in time wastage and contribute to burnout
- Significant need for improved health dataflow, use and access across the patient journey



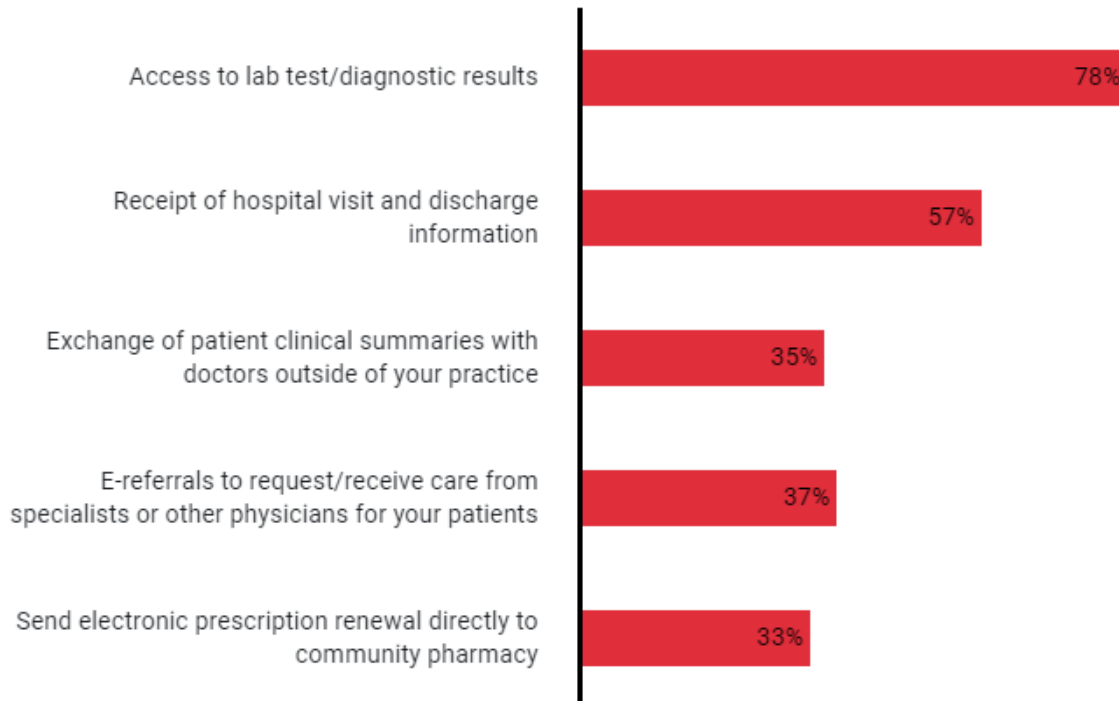
- Burden on health system as a result of poor information exchange, through duplication of tests, unnecessary appointments and hospitalizations
- Availability of standardized data supports system measurement, reporting and research leading to better health outcomes for individuals, the public and populations

Addressing these issues requires **coordinated effort and investment**. End-to-end interoperability is a continuous journey ... and improving interoperability is a multi-year initiative.

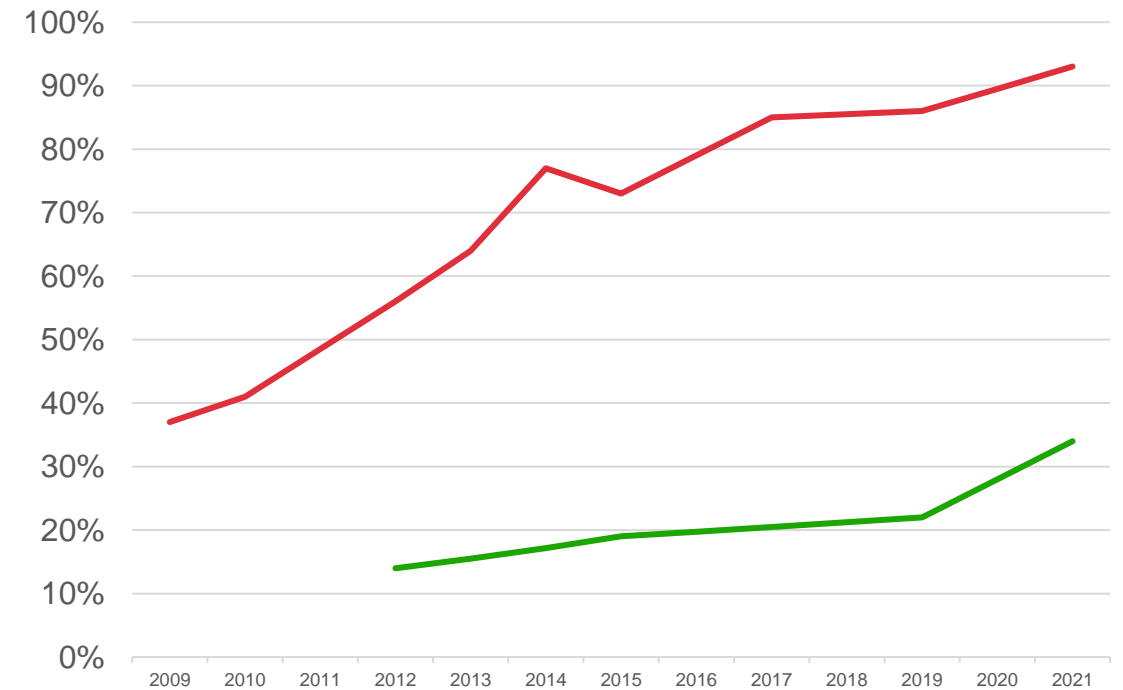
Gaps in electronic communication persist

Physician use of electronic communication tools

Q: Please indicate which of the following aspects of clinical care communication between providers occurs electronically directly from/to your practice system?



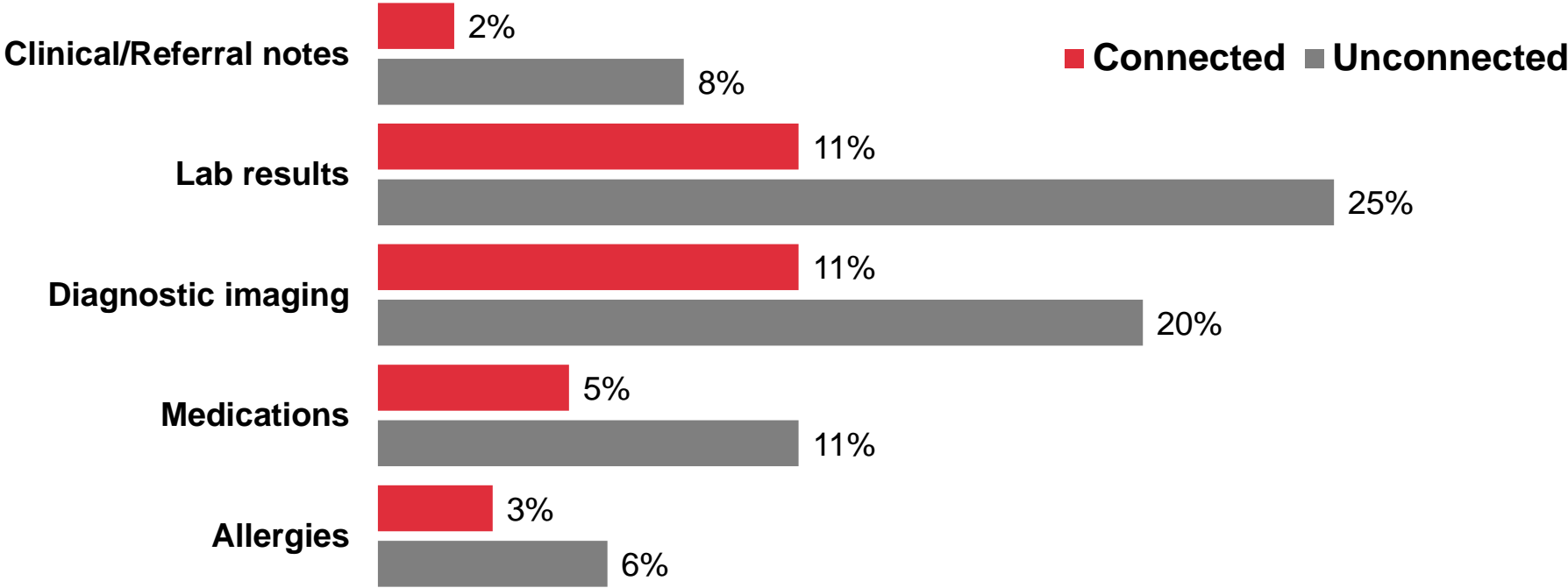
Primary Care EMR adoption compared to electronic sending of clinical summaries



— Primary care EMR % GP — Primary care: Send clinical summaries % GP

Informational continuity of care

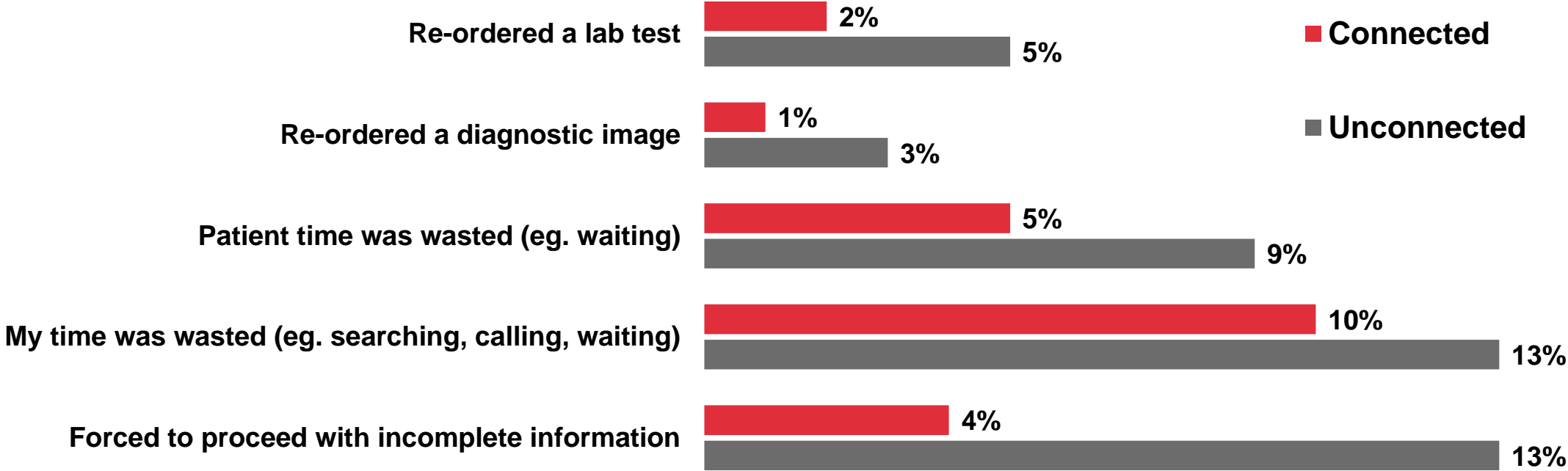
Connected physicians with access to electronic health records: Fewer information gaps



% of encounters for which a specific type information was required where an information gap existed

Informational continuity of care

Connected physicians with access to electronic health records: Fewer consequences

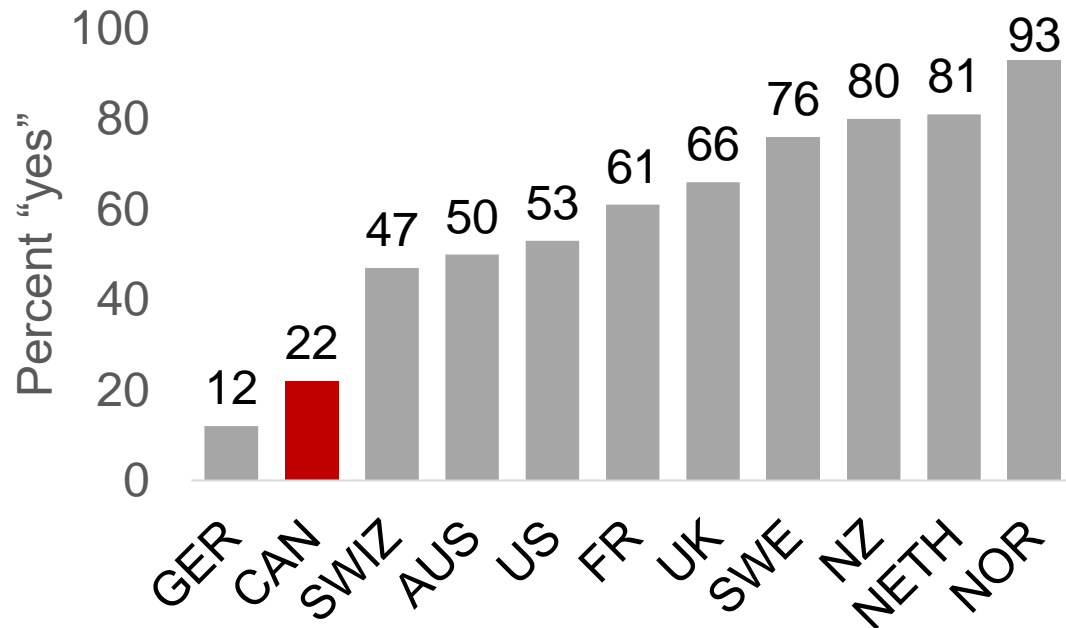


% of all encounters for each cohort with a specific impact generated by an information gap

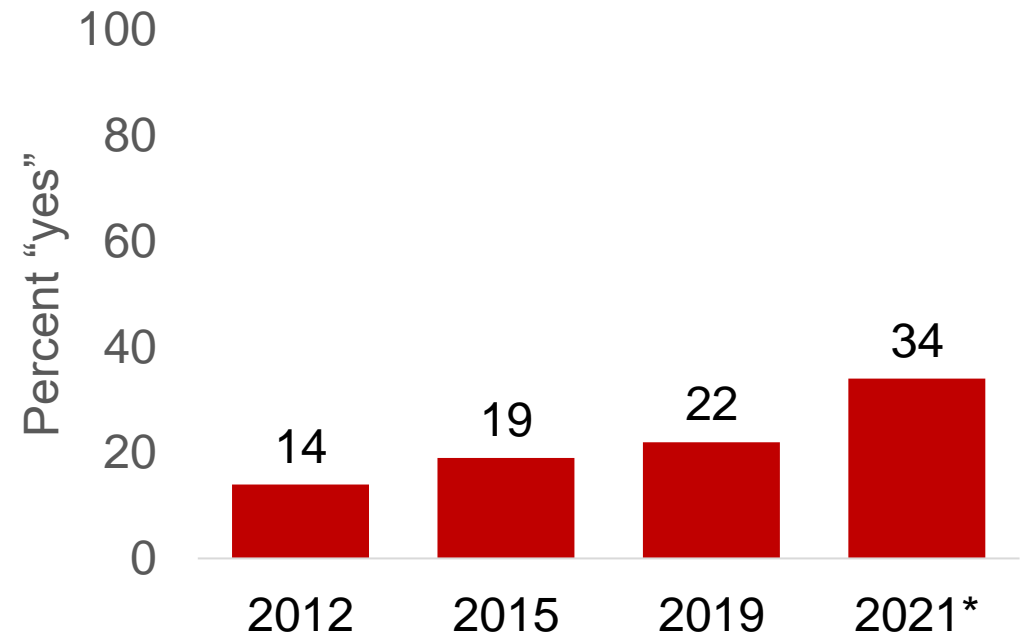
Primary Care Physicians able to electronically exchange patient clinical summaries with any doctors outside practice

Physician reported survey data

2019 International comparisons



2012 – 2021 Canadian trendline



- Data: [2019 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Primary Care Physicians](#).

- Source: Michelle M. Doty et al., "Primary Care Physicians' Role in Coordinating Medical and Health-Related Social Needs in Eleven Countries," *Health Affairs*, published online Dec. 10, 2019.

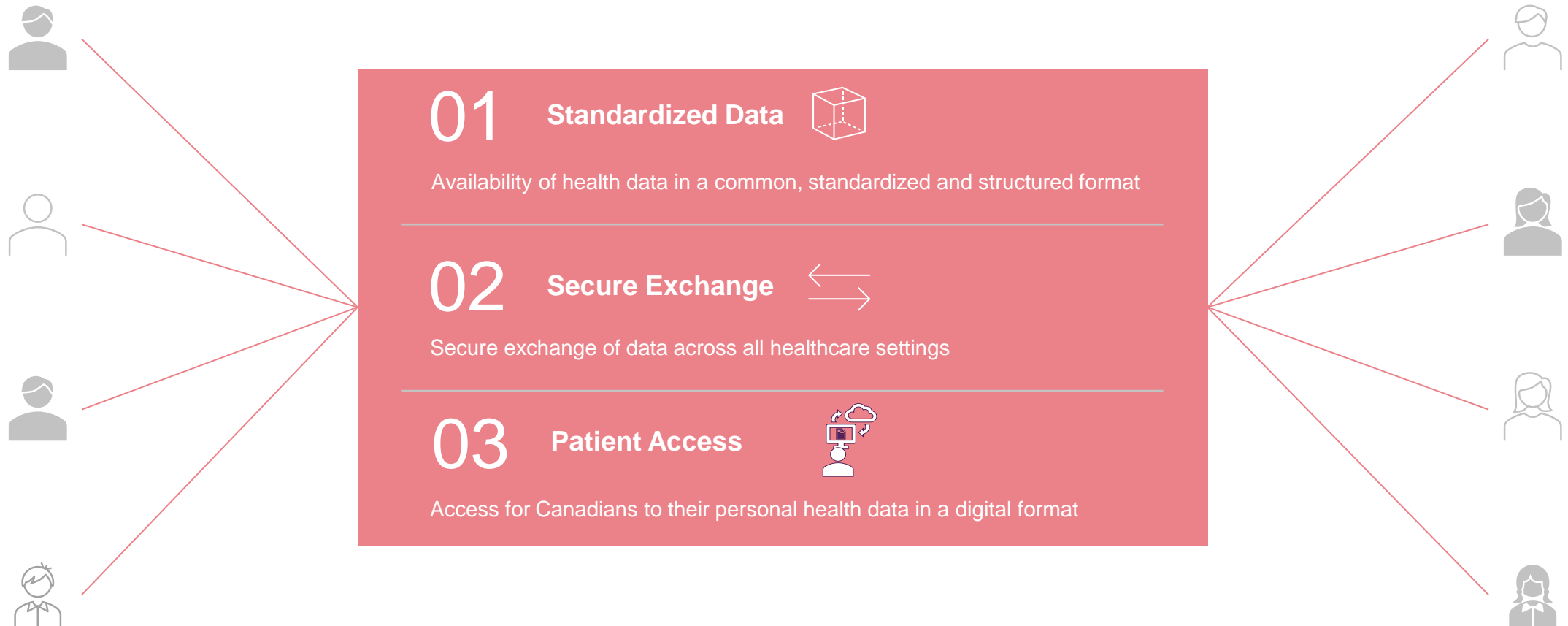
- Data: 2012, 2015 and 2019 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Primary Care Physicians.

- *2021 data from [CMA Infoway National Survey of Physicians](#). Caution should be used when considering trend due to methodology differences

Common Interoperability Goals

Both Infoway and CIHI share three (3) common goals to support our stakeholders - desire to standardize data; enable secure data exchange; and, provide its citizens with easy access to their personal health information in a digital format.

Infoway intends to convene and foster collaboration to achieve these common interoperability goals while ensuring we do not hinder each jurisdiction from realizing their other digital health priorities and aspirations.



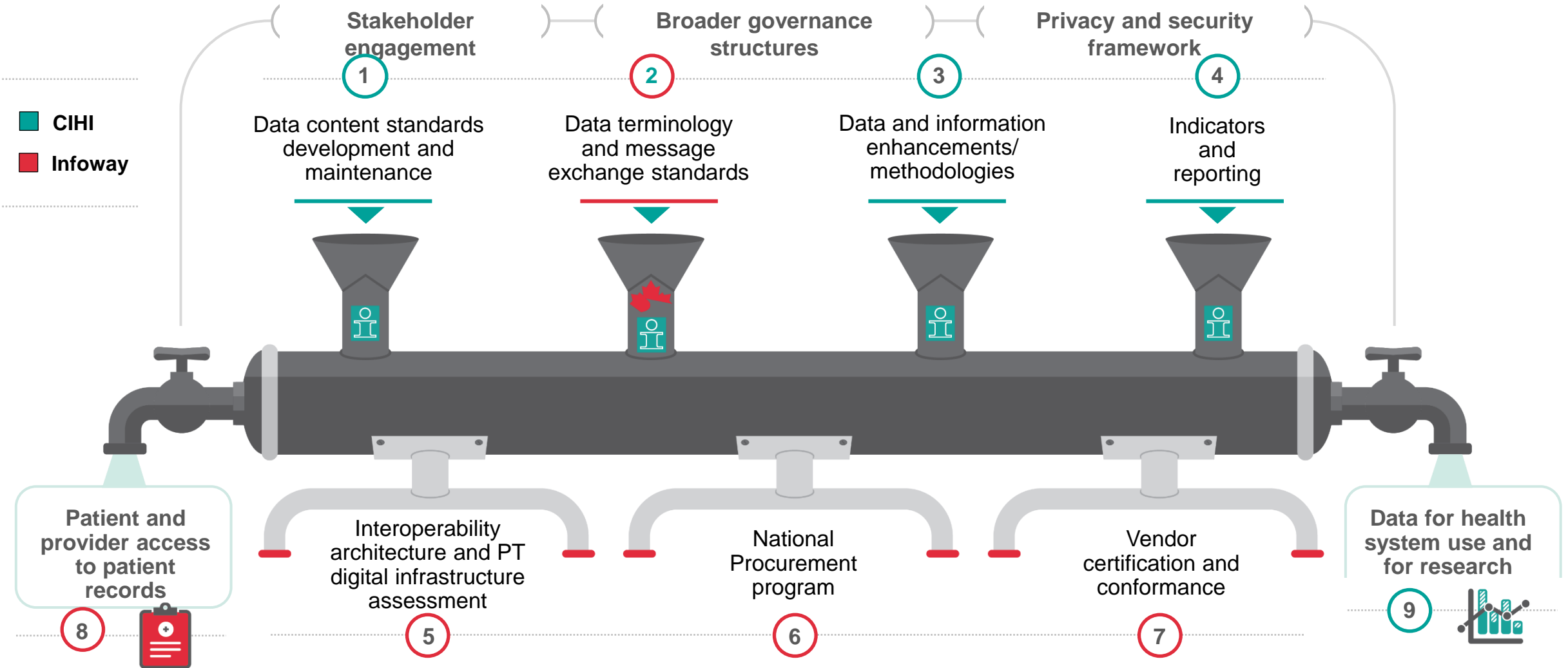
Complementary roles: we work well together

CIHI and Infoway collaborate on development and maintenance of data standards, including data content standards, data exchange standards and terminology standards which together are important for interoperability.

CIHI and Infoway have a precedence in being aligned and working well together. For example:

- Organ donation and transplantation data and reporting in Canada
- Development of EMR content standards
- Co-hosting stakeholder engagement events to advance health analytics for health system use
- Communications and Conferences
- Specific projects – e.g. Using pCLOCD to collect MIS statistic information, Commonwealth Fund Survey, Nursing Surveys, International Survey of Family Doctors etc.

Infoway and CIHI: unique roles in the health data pipeline



Interoperability Governance

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Building on proven success – Guiding principles for a joint governance model

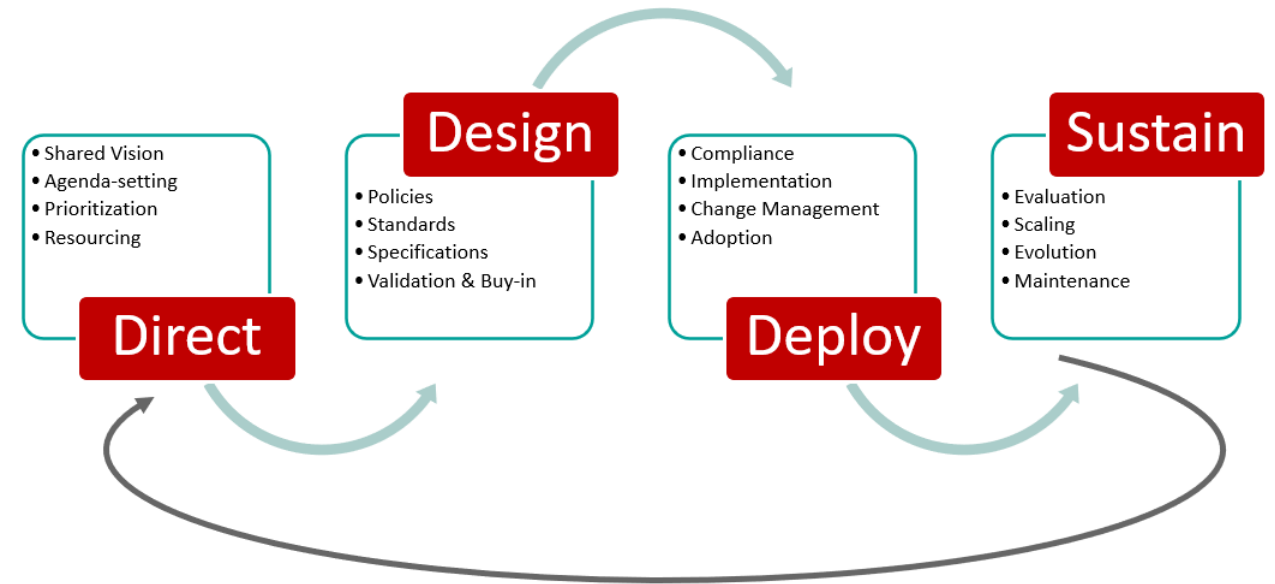
CIHI & Infoway have committed to establish a joint governance approach that is specific and clear in its purpose and mandate and will be developed using a set of guiding principles:

- Clear goals and objectives
 - Mission, measurable objectives/targets and scope of decision making
- Clear mechanisms and processes for oversight, enforcement and coordination
 - Processes include roles and responsibilities and associated membership and structure of groups
- Clear policies, standards, and specifications
 - Policies on decision making, prioritization, funding and resource allocation
 - Agreed upon technical standards and specifications including a roadmap for their selection and/or development

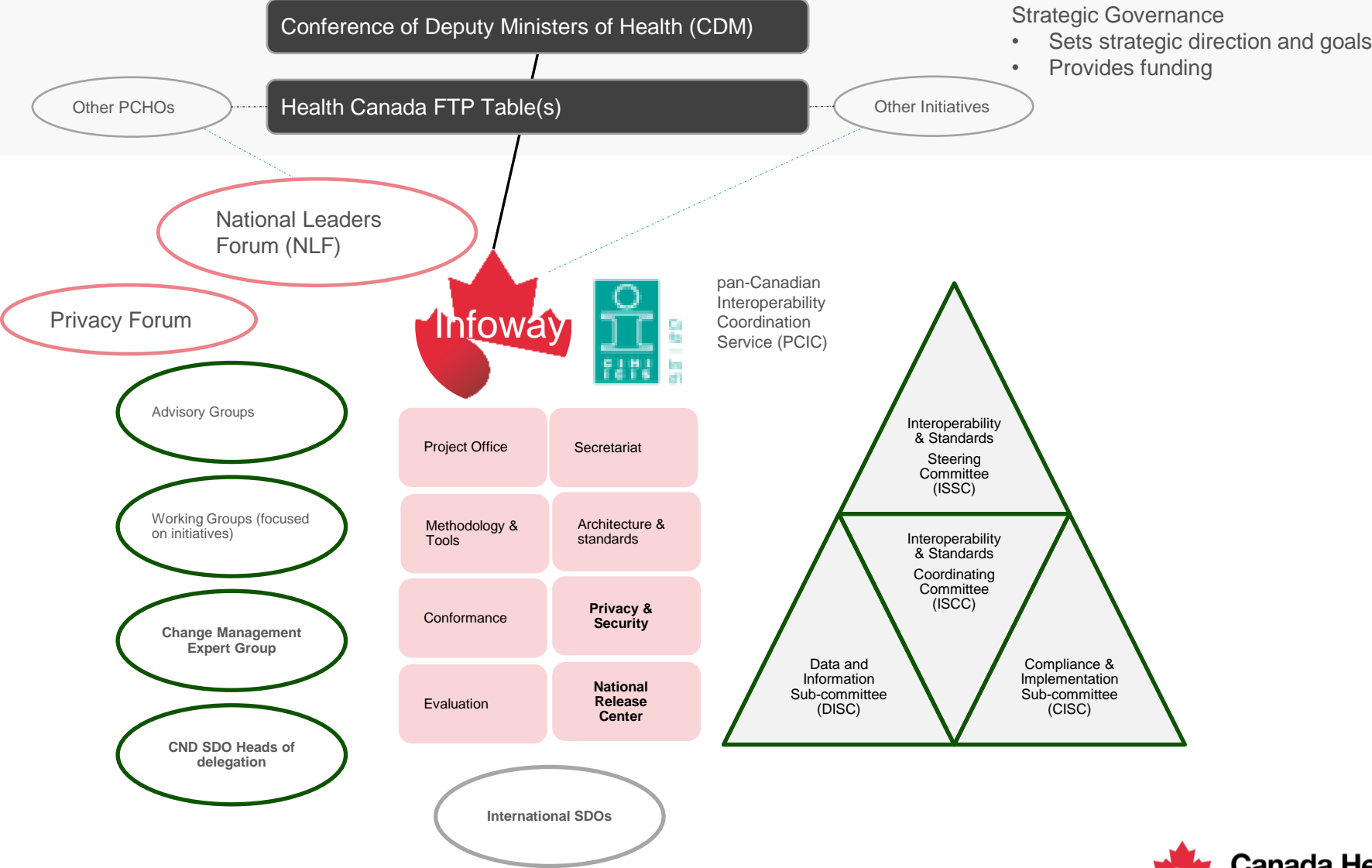
Governance needed across the lifecycle

End-to-end interoperability is a continuous journey ... and improving interoperability is a multi-year journey.

- The execution of governance activities will need to adjust and adapt over time to support the full lifecycle of standards and specifications (i.e. from identification and development through to implementation, adoption and sustainment).
- It is anticipated that the various Advisory Groups and time-limited Working Groups will also evolve and change over time to support this development lifecycle.
- Where possible and applicable, all efforts will be made to align groups / working tables within the broader context of health data and digital health strategies to avoid duplication or redundancy.



Proposed Governance – DRAFT (in development stage)



Key outcomes and benefits

Advancing a timely, usable, open-by-default, connected and comprehensive world-class health data system

- **Improving care through secure exchange of patient data**
- **Empowering providers and patients with access** to health data in a usable digital format
- Providing data across healthcare settings to **support system measurement, reporting and research** leading to better **health outcomes for individuals, the public and populations**
- Fostering **digital health equity** via infrastructure and technology
- Enhancing **public health surveillance** with near-real-time emergency department and **integrated hospital and public health data**
- **Meeting Canadians' expectations** that their data is appropriately used by trusted entities to deliver a safer system for all citizens
- Building a foundation for the interoperability program to be readily extended to **other digital opportunities** e.g. LTC and drugs, referral, appointment booking



Canada Health Infoway

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