



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance & Facilities Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2013 October 3

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE 100% FUNDING – PANORAMA IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee make recommendation to the Board of Health to approve the Panorama Implementation Project budget as attached to committee Report No. 012-13C.

Key Points

- Panorama is a Federal initiative to increase use and coordination of electronic health records. In Ontario, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is leading the implementation of a new communicable disease-related information system at all Ontario health units..
- The Health Unit has received \$230,332 in 100% Ministry funding to support costs associated with Panorama implementation from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.
- Activities to prepare for onsite implementation of Panorama include reviewing information in the existing systems, reviewing business processes, and participating in training activities. The Health Unit also provides consultation and expertise for the further development of Panorama at the provincial level.

What is Panorama?

Public health professionals are responsible for a variety activities aimed at reducing the occurrence and spread of specified communicable diseases that pose a risk to the health of the public. These include monitoring immunization rates in the community, offering immunization clinics, supplying community health care providers with publicly-funded vaccines to administer to their patients, and following up with health care providers, patients and their contacts when communicable diseases are reported. Panorama is an initiative to provide Ontario public health professionals with a comprehensive, secure, web-based information system to more efficiently manage immunization information, vaccine inventory, and cases and outbreaks of communicable diseases. Once fully implemented, Panorama will integrate the work of staff at all 36 health units, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), Ontario Government Pharmacy and Medical Supply Service, and Public Health Ontario.

The Panorama system is being implemented in Ontario in several phases. The first phase is to deploy two modules: 1) the Immunization module that keeps track of immunizations of school pupils, day care attendees, and those vaccinated at public health clinics; and 2) the Vaccine Inventory module that supports ordering publicly-funded vaccines from Ontario Government Pharmacy in Toronto and distributing these vaccines to local health care providers. It is anticipated that these two components of Panorama will be implemented at all Ontario health units by August 2014; the Health Unit is scheduled to implement these modules in May 2014. The MOHLTC has provided Ontario health units with 100% funding for costs associated with Panorama implementation activities during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

100% Ministry Funding

On August 15, 2013, the Health Unit was notified that 100% provincial funding of \$230,332 had been received for costs associated with Panorama implementation activities taking place from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. The budget for this funding allocation is shown in [Appendix A](#).

Panorama Preparation Activities

All Ontario health units are expected to prepare for implementing Panorama at their respective sites. These preparatory activities include:

- Review and update of information in the current immunization system (the Immunization Records Information System – IRIS) and inventory management system (Bioinventory System – BIOS) to ensure that they are ready to be migrated into Panorama;
- Review of current immunization and inventory management business processes to ensure that they align with the functionality available in Panorama;
- Review of the current technical environment and completion of any network or desk top upgrades required to successfully run Panorama at clinics located in Health Unit offices and at community-based clinics, including equipment purchases, if necessary;
- Process reviews and the development of key documents required under provincial privacy legislation, including a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) and a Threat Risk Assessment (TRA);
- Participation in training activities, some of which are in-person in Toronto.

In addition to preparing for Panorama implementation onsite, the Health Unit is a Builder/Early Adopter health unit, and as such, provides consultation and expertise on the development of Panorama at the provincial level. Related activities include:

- Contribution of front-line expertise to enhance Panorama functionality and reporting features. To date, the Health Unit has offered multidisciplinary representation involving a Public Health Nurse, Program Assistants, and an Epidemiologist;
- Active participation and leadership on provincial working groups.

Conclusion

It is expected that in May 2014, the Health Unit will implement the Immunization and Vaccine Inventory modules of Panorama. To support appropriate preparation for this deployment, and to enable participation in provincial Panorama development, the Ministry has provided \$230,332 in 100% funding to the Health Unit, for associated costs incurred between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014.

This report was prepared by Ms. Alison Locker, Epidemiologist, Oral Health, Communicable Disease and Sexual Health Services, Dr. Bryna Warshawsky, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Mr. John Millson, Director, Finance and Operations Service.

Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and CEO

<p>This report addresses the following requirement(s) of the Ontario Public Health Standards: Vaccine Preventable Disease Standard, Immunization Management Protocol, and Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocol</p>
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