



CSA Z1635:22
National Standard of Canada



Functional requirements and core data set for a Canadian paramedic information system (CPIS)



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CSA Z1635:22

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Preface

This is the first edition of CSA Z1635, *Functional requirements and core data set for a Canadian paramedic information system (CPIS)*.

This Standard provides the foundation and data framework for the development of a comprehensive Canadian paramedic information system (CPIS). It aims to facilitate standardized data collection related to paramedicine and to enable organizations to share their data, knowledge, and experiences with relevant stakeholders.

CSA Group acknowledges that the development of this Standard was made possible, in part, by the financial support of the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) and British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS), under the Canadian Safety and Security Program, a federal program led by Defence Research and Development Canada's Centre for Security Science (DRDC CSS) in partnership with Public Safety Canada.

This Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee on Canadian Paramedic Information System, under the jurisdiction of the Strategic Steering Committee on Health and Well-Being, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

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 - c) *wording of the proposed change; and*
 - d) *rationale for the change.*

CSA Z1635:22

Functional requirements and core data set for a Canadian paramedic information system (CPIS)

0 Introduction

0.1 General

The functional characteristics and core data set presented in this Standard draw on evidence-based data frameworks, common taxonomies, and conceptual models related to paramedics, patient encounters and paramedic incidents, practice, services, skills, capabilities, and include key performance indicators (KPIs). These characteristics and core data set also reflect the communities and health care system partnerships that paramedics serve in Canada.

0.2 Overview

Paramedic systems fall outside the *Canada Health Act*. The paramedicine profession is rapidly evolving and is fragmented and somewhat insular. Factors such as new and emerging technologies, evolving formal and informal educational programs, research initiatives, advances in patient care, and various changes in paramedic capabilities are changing the paramedicine profession.

Over the past 15 years, paramedics have broadened their expertise and taken on additional roles to fill emerging gaps and meet the needs of the communities they serve. The settings in which they practise and the types of care they provide have also evolved and expanded, along with their role within health care systems and the expectations of their profession. In addition, paramedic services are managed through both health care and public safety management models, and there is increasing interest by health care systems in having paramedics included in their health care models.

These trends present challenges for PSOs, employers, system and practitioner regulators, educators, researchers, and paramedics themselves as they work to identify gaps and needs in patient care in their communities and determine what is required to fill them. Stakeholders in Canadian paramedicine lack timely access to accurate, accessible, and aggregated data, particularly from a pan-Canadian perspective. Much of the data these stakeholders seek exists but is difficult to locate and access, and little of the data is linked. The absence of pan-Canadian guidelines for information systems and data collection in paramedicine makes it difficult to ensure paramedics are adequately supported in their role as care providers.

This Standard, which provides guidance for the development of a CPIS, is intended to advance the paramedic profession by making accurate, relevant data available to support research; inform decision-making and policy development; and improve operational practice, paramedic health and safety, and patient and health outcomes. A CPIS will provide a single clearinghouse for data to reduce inefficiencies and increase interoperability of information systems. This Standard leverages existing data infrastructure standards (e.g., HL7, SNOMED, FHIR, or ICD codes) to enable information systems to interface with each other. In the absence of a standard, meaningful data connections are not possible.