

Nunavik Completes Phase 1 of its Regional Electronic Medical Record Deployment

Kuujuuaq, April 15, 2026 – The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS), the Inuulitsivik Health Centre (IHC) and the Ungava Tulattavik Health Center (UTHC), are proud to announce the successful completion of Phase 1 of the deployment of the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system in Nunavik's two hospitals: the IHC in the northern village of Puvirnituq and and the UTHC located in the northern village of Kuujuuaq.

This important milestone brings modern, digital patient records to both hospitals and lays the groundwork for expending EMR to communities across the region.

A Single, Secure Medical Record for Nunavimmiut

The new electronic medical record establishes one unified, secure and centralized clinical file as the sole legal health record across hospitals, CLSCs and all point of service in Nunavik.

For patients, this means:

- Improved continuity of care across communities
- Faster access to accurate clinical information
- Reduced duplication of tests and procedures
- Enhanced patient safety
- Better coordination when referred to provincial institutions

A Structured and Safe Deployment

The implementation followed a rigorous, phased approach to ensure clinical safety, data integrity and operational readiness:

1. **Pre-deployment:** Configuration of the Cristal-Net core system, creation and validation of the master patient index, mapping of clinical and administrative workflows, impact analysis, and preparation of technical environments.
2. **Deployment in progress:** Migration of historical and active records, transaction testing, document digitization, configuration of electronic forms, and secure connectivity with the provincial health record (DSQ).

3. **Application Integration:** Validation of interfaces with key clinical systems, including imaging, pharmacy and laboratory applications and integration with the DSQ.

By the end of 2025, major milestones had been completed and validated within both IHC and UTHC facilities, confirming the robustness and reliability of the deployment model.

Strong Regional and Provincial Collaboration

This achievement reflects the dedication and collaboration of multi-sector teams across the NRBHSS, IHC and UTHC, as well as close coordination with provincial partners, including the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) and the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec (CHUQ).

Clinical leaders, information technology specialists, administrative teams and frontline staff worked collectively to ensure the system reflects the realities of care delivery in Nunavik while aligning with provincial standards.

Quotes

“The completion of Phase 1 of the electronic medical record marks a historic milestone for Nunavik. It reflects years of collaboration between our regional institutions, our provincial partners and our dedicated teams on the ground. Most importantly, it strengthens our capacity to deliver coordinated, high-quality care rooted in the realities of Nunavik.” – **Jennifer Munick-Watkins, Executive Director, NRBHSS**

“For many Nunavimmiut, receiving care often means travelling between communities or even outside the region. With the Electronic Medical Record, their health information can now follow them wherever they go. This is a historic milestone for health services in Nunavik, giving our teams access to the right information at the right time and enabling care that is safe, consistent, and adapted to the realities of our communities.” – **Sarah Beaulne, Executive Director, Inuulitsivik Health Centre**

“The Electronic Medical Record is an important technological advancement and a major commitment to patients. For the first time, we are creating one secure health record that follows patients across Nunavik and through Québec health network, helping us give the right treatment, at the right time. Most importantly, EMR is about fairness, protecting our patients, and ensuring their care remains connected every step of the way.”
– **Larry Watt, Executive Director, Ungava Tulattavik Health Center**

“Once fully deployed, the Electronic Medical Record will allow health professionals to access up-to-date patient information in real time. Importantly, the record will also be interoperable with the broader health and social services network across the province of Québec, ensuring uniformity and seamless care coordination when Nunavimmiut receive services in the South.” – **Dr. Nathalie Boulanger, Director of Professional Services Administration, UTHC**

Next Phase: Adoption and Stabilization

The next phase of the project will focus on user adoption, stabilization and continued system enhancement. Priorities for the coming year include:

- Deployment of the Forms Management Module (GDF)
- Integration of the I-Plan nursing module
- Progressive deployment within northern villages’ CLSCs and nursing stations
- Integration of the Provincial Laboratory System (SIL-P)
- Deployment within Public Social Welfare Centres (CPAS)
- Ongoing user training and change management
- Strengthening cybersecurity measures

With sustained governance, financial planning and continued collaboration, the region of Nunavik remains on track to complete its transition to a fully integrated digital health network by the end of next year.

About

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Quebec territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.

The Inuulitsivik Health Centre (IHC) is a public health and social services institution established in 1986. It serves around 8,000 Nunavimmiut across seven Inuit communities along the Hudson Bay coast in Nunavik, Northern Quebec. Supported by the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services and operating under the LSSSS and the JBNQA, Inuulitsivik provides safe, culturally appropriate health and social services locally and supports Inuit traveling to Montreal for specialized care. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of Nunavimmiut by offering respectful, high-quality services rooted in Inuit values and self-determination.

The Ungava Tulattavik Health Center (UTHC) provides safe, accessible, and quality health and social services to the seven Inuit communities of the Ungava Bay Coast, and rehabilitation services to the fourteen Inuit communities of Nunavik.

The health and social services programs are adapted to the population's needs and to the region's realities, in accordance with the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) and the Act respecting health services and social services.

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Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

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