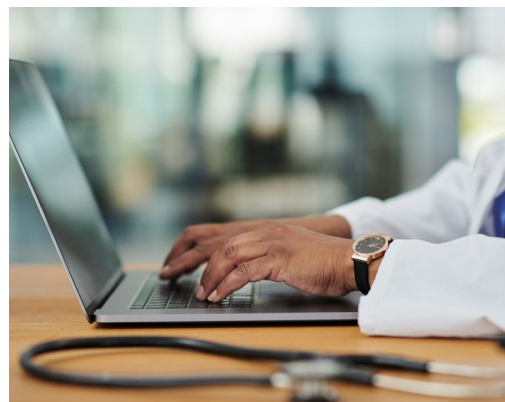


# Health System Inputs and Characteristics Product Review, 2022



The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is committed to ensuring that its long-standing products, including its data sets, indicators and reports, continue to resonate with stakeholders and reflect the evolving Canadian health care landscape.

In June 2022, CIHI completed its fourth product review, a review of its Health System Inputs and Characteristics product bundle (the HSIC product), which relates to releases about hospital costs and utilization. This evaluation followed the [Pharmaceuticals Product Review](#) (April 2022), the [Health Human Resources Product Review](#) (May 2021) and the [NHEx Product Review](#) (August 2020).

The following were in scope for the HSIC product review:

- Annual releases on hospital costs and utilization ([Hospital Spending](#), [Inpatient Hospitalization, Surgery and Newborn Statistics](#) and [NACRS Emergency Department Visits and Length of Stay](#));
- 2 financial indicators ([Corporate Services Expense Ratio](#) and [Cost of a Standard Hospital Stay](#)); and
- The [Patient Cost Estimator](#) tool.

The HSIC product provides essential pan-Canadian information on hospital spending and utilization to federal, provincial and territorial ministries or departments of health and health service organizations, while accommodating the needs of additional audiences where possible.

The review followed a rigorous protocol and produced several key findings, accompanied by a detailed implementation plan.

## Review process

Guided by an external reference group, the product review consisted of informant interviews, an international scan and reviews of key usage metrics (e.g., the product's digital analytics, data requests and citations). Pan-Canadian representation was included in the feedback with a balance among government stakeholders, health care organizations and academics/researchers.

## Key findings

The review affirmed that CIHI remains a trusted source of information on hospital spending and utilization. In particular, stakeholders value CIHI's standards and comparable pan-Canadian data.

Based on stakeholder feedback, several recommendations were developed, centred around driving improvements in CIHI's reporting as well as its product awareness, usability and timeliness of its HSIC data to ensure the HSIC product continues to be relevant in the evolving landscape of Canada's health care systems:

- Enhance the breadth of CIHI's HSIC analysis and reporting:
  - Continue with thematic releases (e.g., COVID-19 hospital spending) and explore opportunities for other ad hoc topical projects that integrate financial and clinical information across settings.
  - Seek opportunities to improve comparative reporting for smaller jurisdictions and facilities.
- Revise current information available to the public to include more non-acute care costs, and enhance the reporting of equity stratifiers.
- Improve stakeholder awareness of the HSIC product to expand product reach and use.
- Strengthen the discoverability of HSIC information (e.g., topic pages) and methodology documentation, as well as improve user experience (e.g., release data via interactive tables, enhance data visualization).
- Explore opportunities to improve data timeliness while preparing to modernize CIHI's data processes (e.g., other data sources, expanding provisional data availability).
- Improve understanding and documentation of variations in service delivery and standards implementation to enhance jurisdictional comparability.

## Implementation plan

Taking into account stakeholder priority needs, as well as the time and investment required to implement the recommendations, CIHI has proposed a phased, 3-year implementation plan.

Activities to enhance the HSIC product are already underway, as follows: continuing with integrated thematic releases (e.g., the Hospital Spending report now includes a thematic component); better promotion of the HSIC product (via increased internal capacity building on cost information); and website enhancements that will improve user experience and functionality for key data, statistics and indicators (e.g., data visualization, exporting, findability, metadata).

Results of the HSIC product review provide a strong basis for the development and implementation of CIHI's strategy for HSIC data and information.



For more information on the HSIC product review or to request the complete HSIC product review report (English only), please email [productreview@cihi.ca](mailto:productreview@cihi.ca)

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