

## Electronic Health Record Implementation in British Columbia

Released: [February 2010](#)

1st Follow-up: [October 2010](#)

2nd Follow-up: [April 2011](#)

3rd Follow-up: [October 2011](#)

Discussed by the Public Accounts Committee: [May 2010 Transcript](#)

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**RECOMMENDATION 1:** *Every six months the Ministry of Health Services provide our Office with a progress update on its results against planned measures of time, cost, quality and outcomes, as well as explanations of these results, and we will review and report this information to the Legislative Assembly.*

### Note from the Auditor General of British Columbia:

Electronic Health Record (EHR) implementation is a very large, multi-year initiative, with several major projects planned for deployment in 2012. In February 2010, I published a report on EHR implementation. In that report, I noted challenges that remained in other EHR areas, and indicated I would regularly follow up until the projects were completed. The public has a right to know about what is likely to be achieved through this initiative, and what is likely not to be achieved.

My staff completed a province-wide review of the EHR projects in early 2011, which involved interviewing a number of officials in all health authorities. This was not an audit; however, a summary of the issues we heard was conveyed to the Ministry of Health in May 2011, to provide the opportunity for these issues to be considered and dealt with as the project moves forward.

Much of the planned costs have now been committed in large, multi-year projects and contracts. In my view, conducting a full-scale audit at this time would not contribute positively to the issues that have been raised with the ministry. I will consider starting a full EHR value-for-money-audit in mid to late 2012, subsequent to the targeted implementation date. In the meantime, my staff will continue monitoring the progress and issues related to the EHR initiative.