

## Support for Windows XP Ends in April 2014 – Are You Ready?

This is a reminder that Microsoft has announced that Windows XP will no longer be supported after April 8, 2014. There will be no updates or hotfixes to fix security or non-security issues, no free or paid/extended assisted support options, and no online technical content updates. After the end of support date, PCs running Windows XP should not be considered to be truly protected.

### How does this impact Alberta Netcare?

Microsoft's decision to stop supporting Windows XP is a significant security issue for Alberta Netcare. Custodians that continue to operate with unsupported/unpatched Windows XP PCs are exposing themselves and their data to increased risk from attackers, as well as potentially exposing their clinical systems and Alberta Netcare information flows to monitoring, copying and corruption.

### What is the impact to Alberta Netcare Community Custodians?

All existing Community sites still using Windows XP should have a migration plan in place to upgrade to a supported operating system to be executed in advance of April 8, 2014. Community sites using Mac OS X, Linux, or other operating systems are not exempt from the requirement to use a supported operating system.

Community sites are reminded of their responsibility to operate and continually update the security for their site as it pertains to their signed pORA agreement. Sites continuing to operate with Windows XP (or other non-supported operating systems) are at increased risk of having their data stolen, corrupted or made inaccessible; as well as exposing their clinical systems and Alberta Netcare health information flow to capture and potential corruption.

### What is the impact to current or existing pORAs?

Custodians will not be required to submit a new PIA unless they are making significant changes to their systems.

Alberta Health will only be accepting new or revised Provincial Organizational Readiness Assessments (pORA) submissions for community sites that define what supported operating systems are in use, or those providing assurance that an operating system migration plan is in place and will be completed in advance of April 8th, 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact your Transition Coordinator or the Alberta Health Security Team at: [AHSecurity@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AHSecurity@gov.ab.ca)