

CST Cerner Access Guide for Students

Welcome to your clinical placement! This guide explains how to access CST Cerner, the clinical information system used across Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), and Providence Health Care (PHC). Understanding your accounts and roles will help you log in smoothly and use the system effectively during your shifts.

Key things you should know:

- All providers, staff and students can only have one CST Cerner account.
- CST Cerner accounts can only be linked to one network account.
- Students that also have an employee account must always use their employee account to access CST Cerner.

What is CST Cerner?

CST Cerner is a shared clinical information system that supports patient care across multiple health organizations. It includes applications like PowerChart, FirstNet, RadNet, and Pharmacy Medication Manager. Each application provides tools specific to your role and area of practice.

CST Cerner Positions and Position Picker

Your role in the clinical setting is mapped to a **Cerner Position**, which determines what you can see and do in CST Cerner. If you work in more than one role (e.g., Inpatient Nurse and Critical Care), you will need to switch positions using **Position Picker** at the start of your shift. You can find more information about Position Picker [here](#).

Please note that your CST Cerner position will not always include the word “Student”. After accessing CST Cerner and setting up your patient list for your shift, you will establish (declare) your relationship with the patient in the system. This is where you indicate that you are a student.

Network Accounts

To access CST Cerner, you need a **network account** from VCH, PHSA or PHC. There are two main types:

- **Employee Network Account:** Named accounts for staff and contractors (e.g., john.smith).
- **Student Network Account:** Numbered accounts for students (e.g., S012345). These accounts always start with the letter “S”.

Important: Some users may have both an employee and a student network account (e.g., Employed Student Nurses often have an employee account and a student account).

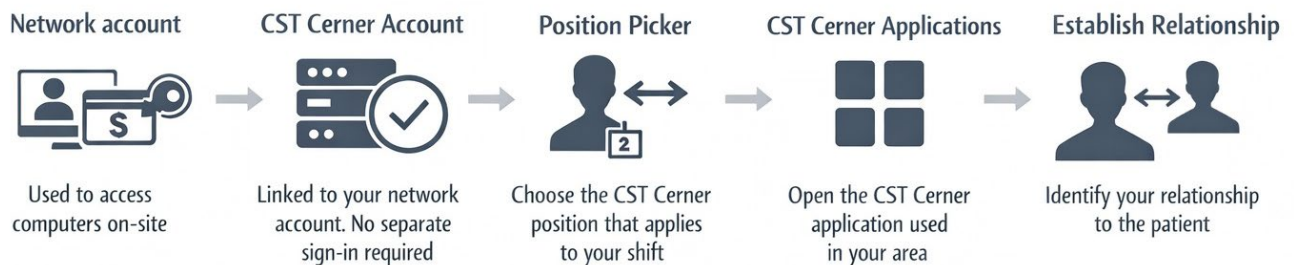
To access site computers and some systems users are normally required to enter a **domain** (e.g. phsabc, vch, infosys) together with their network account (e.g. phsabc/S012345 or vch/S012345). For all your placements, your active domain will be the one linked to the site where you will be working.

CST Cerner Account

Your CST Cerner Account is linked to one network account only. If you receive an Employee Network Account, your CST Cerner access will switch to that account. If your network account is disabled, you cannot use it to access CST Cerner.

CST Cerner Access Step-By-Step

Your CST Cerner Access Journey



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- **Q: Can I have more than one CST Cerner account?**

A: No. While users can have more than one network account, every CST Cerner user can only have one CST Cerner account. That account can only be linked to one network account.

- **Q: Will my network account change if I have placements or rotations in different sites?**

A: No. Your network account will remain the same, but the domain you will be using to log in might change. Always log in with the domain that is linked to the site you are working at (infosys for PHC sites, VCH for VCH sites, and PHSABC for PHSA sites).

- **Q: I have two active network accounts (employee and student). Which one do I use for CST Cerner?**

A: Use your Employee Network Account for CST Cerner access.

- **Q: I am an Employed Student Nurse (ESN) and I also do student placements. Which network account do I use for CST Cerner?**

A: Use your Employee Network Account for CST Cerner access.

- **Q: Can I use my student account after getting an employee account?**

A: No. Once you have an Employee Network Account, your CST Cerner access is linked to that account only.

- **Q: What if my account doesn't work?**

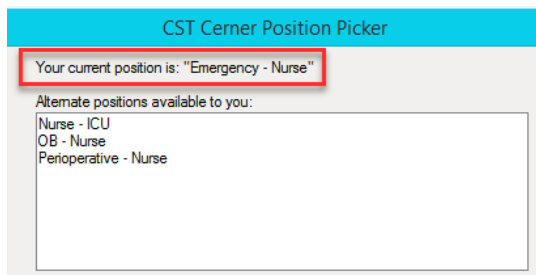
A: Contact your Health Organization's [Service Desk](#) to confirm your network account and CST Cerner account are active. A Service Desk agent will help you identify the issue.

- **Q: What if I forget my password?**

A: Contact your Health Organization's Service Desk for a password reset. Do not share your password with anyone.

- **Q: Do I need Position Picker every time I switch units or roles?**

A: Yes. Select the correct Cerner Position at the start of each shift (e.g. OB – Nurse, Emergency – Nurse, Ambulatory – Nurse). More information about Position Picker can be found [here](#).



- **Q: How do I know which CST Cerner Position to select?**

A: Choose the position that matches your role for that shift. If unsure, ask your preceptor, placement coordinator or manager. For example:

Department	CST Cerner Position
ICU	Nurse – ICU
PACU	Perioperative – Nurse
L&D	OB - Nurse
ED	Emergency – Nurse

- **Q: How does the system know that I am a student?**

A: Your access to CST Cerner is based on the clinical placements or rotations you complete at sites that are live with CST Cerner. The Access and Provisioning team configures student accounts based on this placement information.

In addition, to open and view a patient’s chart, every CST Cerner user must establish (declare) their relationship with the patient. The type of relationship selected determines what information the user can view in the patient’s chart.

- **Q: What happens if I log in with the wrong position?**

A: You may not be able to see the correct tools or patient information. Log out and use Position Picker to select the correct position.