



Only provincial and zone results available and reported on following pages.

Objective 11: Improve efficiencies through implementation of operational and clinical best practices while maintaining or improving quality and safety.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

AHS is supporting strategies to improve efficiencies related to clinical effectiveness and appropriateness of care, operational best practice and working with partners to support service delivery. AHS is making the most effective use of finite resources while continuing to focus on quality of care.

Operational Best Practice is one of the ways to reduce costs, while maintaining and/or improving care to ensure a sustainable future. This initiative began more than a year ago, and initially focuses on the 16 largest hospitals in Alberta, clinical support services and corporate services.

AHS PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Percentage of nursing units achieving best practice targets

Percentage of nursing units achieving best practice targets is defined as the percentage of nursing units at the 16 largest sites meeting operational best practice targets.

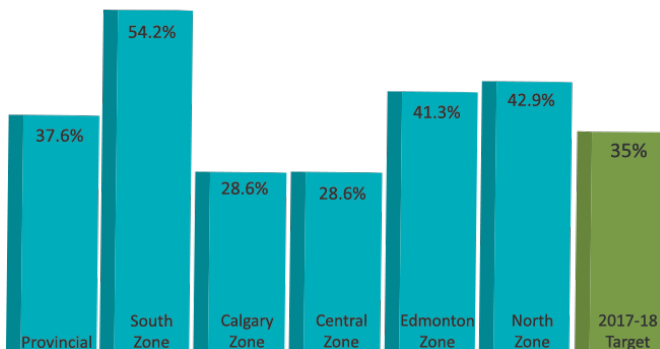
UNDERSTANDING THE MEASURE

Through operational best practice, we have identified large variations in the cost of delivering services at different sites. Using comparative data from across the country, AHS developed targets for all inpatient units designed to achieve equitable service delivery across the province. The measure will be used to monitor nursing units' ability to meet targets and reduce variations in the cost of delivering high quality services at the 16 largest sites.

HOW WE ARE DOING

A higher percentage means more efficiencies have been achieved across AHS. Provincially, Q1 results met the 2017-18 target of 35%.

Percentage of nursing units achieving best practice targets Q1 2017-18 - this is a new measure and comparable historical data is not available.



WHAT WE ARE DOING

In addition to initiatives related to operational best practice, AHS is also engaged in many other strategies to help improve efficiencies across the organization. The following are examples of some of this work.

The creation of a Clinical Appropriateness Steering/ Advisory Committee was approved to manage clinically appropriate initiatives that will enhance patient care and contribute cost savings to AHS.

Additional initiatives to reduce inappropriate variation and apply consistent clinical standards are found in Objective #5.

Q1 results of Appropriateness of Care (based on Choosing Wisely) initiatives include:

- Q1 target was met as AHS saw a 19% decrease in CT lumber spine exams performed in Q1 compared to the same period as last year.
- Work continues on implementing a streamlined Low Molecular Weight Heparin formulary based on clinician engagement and contracting process.
- The Fetal Fibronectin (FfN) was discontinued. A clinical practice guideline to support assessment of risk for pre-term labor without use of FfN is in place.

The following Q1 updates are provided on planning activities underway with Alberta Health:

- The goal of Zone Health Care Planning is to develop a population health driven strategic plan. Initiatives identified will support quality, accessible care in the community and a sustainable health system, reduce the reliance on acute care and enhance care in the community. Engagement initiatives were held in both Calgary and Central Zones for both community initiatives and acute care streams.
- Service and Access Guidelines develop consistent principles for health care planning that supports equitable access to services across the province. This work describes the core services Albertans can reasonably expect to have access to closer to home. Subject matter experts were invited to participate in developing guidelines for medical/ surgical basic (rural), emergency health and primary care services.
- Provincial Interventional Cardiac Service Plan work proceeds which will identify the need for cardiac services in a coordinated and evidence-based approach.