

Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network

What is the Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)?

The Addiction and Mental Health SCN is a community of physicians, front-line health care workers, researchers, others specialized in addressing Albertans mental health needs focusing on prevention and treatment.

Why was the Addiction and Mental Health SCN created?

The Addiction and Mental Health SCN was created to enhance the prevention and treatment of addiction and mental health issues in order to provide the best possible outcomes for patients.

Who's involved?

The Addiction and Mental Health SCN core committee currently consists of 35 individuals including physicians, front-line health care workers, patient engagement researcher, as well as others who specialize in addiction and mental health.

What work is under way?

- **Depression Pathways** – Depression is the fourth leading cause of disability and premature death in the world. By working with family doctor's offices the Addiction and Mental Health SCN will look to enhance outcomes for patients who are treated for depression by diagnosing depression in individuals earlier, and improve access to appropriate treatment.
- **Alcohol Pathway** – Research is underway as addiction and mental health experts investigate how and what services are provided to individuals using and misusing alcohol in Alberta. This data and research will help to identify key priority areas that will help establish treatment and services. Alcohol-related harm is a major health problem and is the third leading risk factor for disease and disability in Canada.
- **Adolescent Depression Clinical Pathway (EMPATHY)** - this pilot pathway will screen adolescents for mental health and substance use issue and then provide appropriate interventions.

How to get involved

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Addiction Mental Health SCN please contact us at: addictionmentalhealth.scn@albertahealthservices.ca.