

Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network

What is the Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network (DON SCN)?

The DON SCN brings together a diverse group of clinicians and patient advisors from across the province, with a keen interest in improving and coordinating care across these three important and inter-connected areas of health.

Why was the DON SCN created?

The incidence of diabetes and obesity in Alberta continues to grow at alarming rates. Good nutrition coupled with physical activity can help prevent and manage obesity, diabetes, and other chronic conditions. The DON SCN was created to understand the connections between these areas and help reduce the rates of diabetes and obesity by improving the quality of care we deliver, making sure it's available to all Albertans and creating solutions that can be successful within our health system.

Who's involved?

The DON SCN has a broad reach, connecting clinicians, researchers, patients, families and decision makers from across the province. A Core Committee of approximately 25 members are involved in the DON SCN on an ongoing basis, but each project engages many other experts. All Albertans are encouraged to become involved in this work to share their perspective and expertise.

What work is under way?

- **Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS)** - introducing new and consistent ways of managing care before, during and after surgery to help patients stay strong and get back to their normal self as quickly as possible.
- **Insulin Pump Therapy (IPT)** - helping give more flexibility to individuals living with Type 1 diabetes with the goal of ensuring safe and equitable access to those who will benefit most from this treatment.
- **Diabetes Standards** - developing provincial standards for diabetes care based on the best available evidence to ensuring consistent care of all Albertans with diabetes.
- **Diabetes Foot Care Clinical Pathway** - will help providers identify foot problems and facilitate early intervention. This will help prevent foot ulcers and reduce lower leg amputations.
- **Diabetes Inpatient Management** - enhancing, improving and standardizing in-hospital diabetes management across Alberta.
- **Weight Bias** - working together with the AHS provincial obesity strategy team to appropriately support obese clients through the health system.
- **Provincial Obesity Strategy Review** (in collaboration with the primary health care team) - will review of the Provincial Obesity Strategy, initially launched in 2011, to find new ways to address the growing rates of obesity in Alberta
- **Research** - seeking opportunities in the areas of diabetes in pregnancy and obesity management in primary and community care.

How to get involved

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition SCN contact us at: obesitydiabetesnutrition.scn@albertahealthservices.ca.

Network Note

An estimated 2 million Albertans are overweight or obese and an estimated 5.8 per cent of Albertans have diabetes.