



# Strategic Clinical Network

## Research Project

The Obesity, Diabetes and Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) has been successful in its application for funding through [The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System \(PRIHS\)](#) from Alberta Innovates Health Solutions.

**Care and rehabilitation for patients with severe obesity in Alberta's tertiary care settings** is a three year, \$750,000 project that will identify the barriers and develop solutions for providing tertiary care (specialized hospital care) to adults and children with severe obesity in Alberta.

### Project Description

#### **Care and rehabilitation for patients with severe obesity in Alberta's tertiary care settings**

The rate of obesity continues to grow across North America and right here in Alberta. Some local evidence suggests patients with severe obesity stay in rehabilitation hospital nearly twice as long as those who are not obese, even though they have the same functional status. This length of stay often contributes to more stress on patients and a greater cost to our health care system.

Through the PRIHS funding, further research will help identify barriers to providing care for both adult and pediatric patients with severe obesity in rehabilitation and other tertiary care settings. It will look at the equipment required such as larger beds, lifts and wheelchairs as well as needs for staff training, and effective systems for referral and discharge planning.

This information will help inform solutions to providing safe, quality care for obese patients.