



# Strategic Clinical Network

## Research Project

The Respiratory Health 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.

The **Alberta Primary Care Pathway for Childhood Asthma** is a three-year project (\$750,000 in funding total) looking at an innovative mechanism for managing childhood asthma in primary care settings and improving related healthcare outcomes.

### **Alberta Primary Care Pathway for Childhood Asthma (ACAP)**

Asthma is the most common chronic disease in childhood with at least 50 per cent of patients having poor control that results in frequent emergency treatment and hospitalization - placing an unnecessary burden on the healthcare system. While evidence suggests timely treatment with preventative therapies can substantially improve asthma control and reduce emergency department visits and hospitalizations, a significant proportion of children do not receive these therapies.

This trial aims to implement and evaluate a primary care clinical pathway, which provides healthcare professionals with steps to guide the best care of patients. Installed into an electronic medical record and using web-based self-paced learning, it is anticipated that certain barriers will be removed and it will prove to be a successful way to improve outcomes.

The goal of the pathway is to increase the prescription of preventative therapies for asthma (medications), and to decrease the use of healthcare resources for asthma-related incidents. It also seeks to decrease health system costs and facilitate better access to skills training for patient self-management education.

This knowledge-to-action (randomized cluster controlled) trial will help identify those things that support pathway implementation. An additional result of this work is the establishment and validation of a case definition for childhood asthma, including a new data sharing agreement between Primary Care Research Networks and the Health Quality Council of Alberta. If this trial proves to be effective, Alberta Health Services will encourage the launch of this pathway in Alberta's Primary Care Networks.

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