

# Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

## Endovascular Therapy

### The Goal

Endovascular therapy is a stroke treatment that removes the large stroke-causing clots from the brain, and substantially improves the chance for a better outcome for patients.

In response to the compelling evidence for endovascular therapy, the Alberta stroke system of care must change to increase timely, equitable and safe access to this therapy, which is only provided at the two Comprehensive Stroke Centres in Calgary and Edmonton. This project aims to implement the necessary transportation pathways and protocols to make this treatment accessible to all Albertans. AHS will use the advantage of working as a single provincial health system to achieve the best patient outcomes.



### The Process

Our system of early stroke care must be redesigned to make endovascular therapy accessible to those who would benefit. This will include:

- Revision of EMS triage and transport pathways and inter-hospital referrals
- Implementation of appropriate brain scans in the remote stroke centres to assess for eligibility for endovascular therapy
- Improvement in care processes to reduce the time to treatment

### The Outcome

The research in endovascular therapy in Alberta showed, for those people who sustained a large stroke and received the therapy, almost twice as many returned to functional independence and half as many died, compared to those who did not receive the treatment. Our goal is to achieve a similarly positive outcome for the approximately 500 eligible patients across Alberta.

### The Team

The Cardiovascular Health and Stroke Strategic Clinical Network is working with stakeholders from across the province, including EMS, STARS, Emergency Medicine, Zone Stroke Program Administrative and Stroke Neurology leads, and Neuro-radiology, to adapt our stroke system of care to facilitate patients' access to endovascular therapy. This project aligns with quality improvement work being undertaken by Alberta stroke researchers.