

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH

The Alberta Health Services (AHS) Strategic Directions 2009 – 2012 identifies research participation as a critical strategic priority that will make the organization fit for the future. The formation of a single provincial health authority provides the opportunity to transform the research agenda in Alberta Health Services into an internationally recognized program. A strong focus on research within Alberta Health Services positions us better to contribute to government policy objectives about research.

Where We Are	What We Are Trying to Achieve	We Will	Performance Management and Reporting
<p>Most of the former health regions lacked a formal or tangible commitment to research, had fragmented research efforts, and were without a strategic research vision and purpose.</p> <p>While pockets of long-standing health research excellence exist in Alberta, the research culture is inconsistently fostered across the health system, resulting in lost opportunities to generate and/or use research findings to improve health services and health care delivery.</p> <p>There are impediments to the efficient conduct of health research and the application of resulting research findings.</p> <p>The integrated model of health research where the health care providers, the universities, and other academic partners work together, has been effective in creating world-class research environments.</p> <p>The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) has made major investments in Alberta's health research enterprise over the years and the Alberta Advanced Education & Technology (AET) "Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions" initiative will provide the framework for supporting Alberta's health research of the future.</p> <p>The Alberta Health Research and Innovation Strategy (AHRIS), being developed by Alberta Health & Wellness (AHW) and AET, will provide future directions for Alberta's health research activities</p>	<p>TRANSFORMATION Centres of excellence with focused health research agendas that address key priorities to improve access, quality and sustainability for all Albertans.</p> <p>APPLICATION A coordinated research program that increases clinical, translational, health services and public health research outputs applied locally, provincially and globally to improve health service delivery, disease/injury prevention and health outcomes; the program will attract and retain world-class health researchers and clinician scientists in all health professions.</p> <p>INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROCESSES A single provincial environment that facilitates and fosters health research.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement within Alberta Health Services Alberta-wide programs of research, which integrate research and service delivery. 2. Collaboratively develop structures so that we actively inform, and are informed by, various AHS departments and our partners in government and academic institutions in the planning, implementation, and delivery of care, education and research. 3. Identify research priorities with the greatest impact for AHS and the well-being of Albertans, develop a strategic plan for investment and support, and accordingly contribute to world-class research programs for Alberta and Canada. 4. Leverage significant provincial funding and economy-of-scale in AHS to invest in enabling infrastructure for clinical research, health services research, and public health and community health research. 5. Develop trainee and recruitment/retention programs to build the capacity of highly-qualified research personnel. 6. Develop integrated research platforms that are foundational to increased research capacity 7. Optimize and build capacity in providers and staff at all organizational levels to apply research and evaluation skills to effect change in the workplace, including web-based tools to facilitate evidence-based practice. 8. Collaboratively develop and embed a culture of and structure for knowledge mobilization to effect changes in policy and practice in health care. 9. Streamline and accelerate standardized reviews of research protocols for ethical, scientific, privacy, and resource impacts. 10. Implement a single standardized risk assessment, and develop common legal processes and contractual templates. 11. Develop and coordinate common and accessible databases for the conduct of health research; work with information repository owners and custodians and other stakeholders to improve access for research purposes. 12. Develop a common health research inventory database. 13. Put in place transparent and consistent financial models and processes to provide accountability for research funding/costing and the outputs/outcomes from that research. 	<p>A performance management and reporting plan will be developed to measure progress, in the critical elements of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Being explicit about how much we spend on research; b) Setting priorities for research; c) Facilitating the conduct of research; and d) Measuring what we get for our investment.