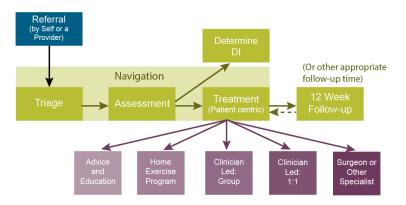
# **MSK Transformation**

October 2020 Update

Improved wayfinding, equitable access to care and reducing variation in care and outcomes are within the scope of an initiative aiming to transform the model of musculoskeletal (MSK) care in Alberta.



#### **MSK Transformation Key Features:**

Standardized processes
Patient-centered care
Outcome measures
Consistent communication
Sustainable health system funding

## **Patient Engagement**

Two patient focus groups were conducted in the spring with rural and urban representation from Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Consort, Cochrane, Camrose, and Calgary. The focus groups shared their knowledge and first-hand experiences from accessing shoulder care in various health care settings. The insights helped to inform the best evidence consensus of the shoulder assessment pathway and are also valuable for the other specialty focus areas. *Thank you to the patient representatives who participated in the focus groups!* 

### **Shoulder**

Clinical consensus for the shoulder assessment care path is nearing completion. Given the constraints currently faced by healthcare professionals across the province, the Delphi consensus process has continued through virtual engagement sessions. Once the pathway is ready for implementation, an engagement and educational campaign will take place to support Albertans' access to the best shoulder care available.

#### Knee

A *Post MSK Injury Assessment* survey is now being administered to soft tissue knee patients following assessment at the Southern Alberta Knee Injury Clinic (Lethbridge) and the Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic (Edmonton). The data will help to inform development of future standardized care pathways to provide Albertans with easily accessible, appropriately managed care for their knee injuries.







## **Spine Health**

The Spine Health Working Group is focused on developing a qualitative survey to help inform how low back pain is currently treated across the province. Patient educational materials are also being examined. A collaborative application by the Bone & Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network and the Neurosciences, Rehabilitation & Vision Strategic Clinical Network was awarded a Health Evidence Review by Alberta Health. The review is being coordinated by the Institute of Health Economics to conduct a Health Evidence Review for treatments of low back pain in Alberta. The review will support developing and implementing standards of practice for Spine Health.

#### **MSK Case Rates**

The MSK Transformation initiative will establish case rates that will facilitate cost-effective and readily accessible MSK services for Albertans. Analysis of claims data is providing evidence of MSK service utilization across shoulder, knee and spine conditions. Preliminary evidence suggests a high utilization of healthcare visits, with approximately 500,000 visits to medical offices each year for the three focus areas. Any MSK assessment providers interested in engaging on current state practices in support of the business case, please contact <a href="mailto:bonejoint.scn@ahs.ca.">bonejoint.scn@ahs.ca.</a>