

Bone & Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network

Quick Facts

What is the Bone & Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network (BJH SCN)?

Since 2012, the BJH SCN has been Alberta's primary vehicle for provincial bone and joint strategies. In accordance with our vision of *Keeping Albertans Moving*, the BJH SCN aims to keep individuals healthy by providing high-quality care, ensuring access to care when needed, and improving journeys through the health care system.

Why was the BJH SCN created?

Bone and joint health problems are the world's leading cause of disability and can have substantial effects on quality of life and care givers. As Alberta's population continues to grow and live longer, the demand for improved bone and joint health care is essential. Bone and joint health problems, such as osteoporosis and arthritis, are among the greatest challenges facing the health care system in Canada.

Who's involved?

The BJH SCN involves many stakeholders including the professionals who deliver care, the patients who receive it and the researchers who help us understand disease and how to best treat it. Policy makers and health administrators are part of our broad stakeholder group too. By bringing together patients and families, researchers, and clinicians the BJH SCN builds the expertise and resources to make meaningful change to bone and joint health in Alberta.

What work is under way?

Our priority areas of work are **Bone Health, Joint Health** and **Movement and Function**, focusing on:

- MAXIMIZING mobility and function
- MENDING the loss of function as a result of bone and joint disorders and injuries
- MITIGATING risks for bone and joint injuries and conditions

Fragility & Stability Program (Bone Health)

This program is comprised of clinicians, researchers and patients dedicated to improving bone health and care for people with fragility fractures, including hip fractures. Their work encompasses the full continuum of care from bone health promotion and prevention of secondary fracture to hospital care for fragility fractures and ongoing care following a hip fracture. Secondary fracture prevention teams include Catch-a-Break (CAB) and the Fracture Liaison Service (FLS).



GLA:D (Good Life with osteoArthritis: Denmark)

The BJH SCN has been instrumental in leading the implementation and evaluation in Alberta for this exercise-based program to help people who have osteoarthritis in the knees and/or hips. Research from GLA:D® in Denmark, where the program originated, shows that participants report less pain, reduced use of painkillers and more physical activity. Other partners in the GLA:D program include Bone and Joint Canada, the Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation, the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute and The Arthritis Society.

Hip & Knee Program (Joint Health)

First established in 2004, the **Surgical Quality Program** has a history of bringing together arthroplasty teams from across the province to improve care for hip and knee replacement patients. Working with AHS Zones, they have created scorecards that measure the quality of care being provided and give feedback to health care providers. This program has helped find new ways to be efficient and provide better care to patients.

This provincial program aims to standardize, implement, and improve evidence-based clinical practices to deliver the best possible quality care for hip and knee arthroplasty patients in Alberta. Through extensive stakeholder collaboration and process integration, continuous quality improvement is an integral part of hip and knee replacement practice in Alberta, generating some of the richest data on quality available in the country.

An **Osteoarthritis Management & Community-Based Model of Care** was developed to improve care for Albertans with osteoarthritis (OA) ensuring support and evidence-based patient-centred care and best practices. The work spans the continuum of care from prevention and screening to self-management, community-based care and education, system supports and enhanced, multidisciplinary assessment and care, including surgical treatment.

Musculoskeletal (MSK) Transformation

MSK care refers to any health care related to muscles and bones. Our teams are comprised of various health care providers (including specialists and researchers) and patients as they look for ways to improve the entire system. Our current focus is on three specific areas: shoulder, soft tissue knee, and spine. Working closely with primary care and other providers, the BJH SCN teams will streamline access for MSK assessment and treatment.

How to get involved

We would love to have you join our network! If you are interested in becoming a part of the Bone & Joint Health SCN, contact us at: bonejoint.scn@ahs.ca.