



Strategic Clinical Network

Research Project

The Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) has been successful in their application for funding through [The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System \(PRIHS\)](#) from Alberta Innovates Health Solutions.

SpineAccess Alberta is a three year, \$750,000 project that will create and evaluate a new model of care for back pain including the creation of team triage centres aimed at providing the right care, to the right patients, at the right time.

Project Description

SpineAccess Alberta

Back pain is the world's number one musculoskeletal disability. More than 85 per cent of adults will experience back pain during their lives. Typically, back pain resolves within weeks without imaging or surgery. However many fear that their back pain falls into the 10% of cases that require specialist attention and/or imaging. Unfortunately, the system sometimes enables those fears by requesting inappropriate consultations and imaging. The result is some back pain becomes more difficult to treat over time while wait times to see a specialist and surgery are backlogged across Alberta.

Thanks to PRIHS funding, the Bone and Joint SCN will create and evaluate a new model of back pain triage centres where patients can be referred by primary care clinicians.

SpineAccess Alberta will include multidisciplinary teams at two pilot centres who will assess, triage and treat patients with back problems. At these pilot sites, these teams will help clear the health system of backlogs of patients waiting for unnecessary consultations and it will help the 10 per cent who do need a specialist, see them faster.

Through the PRIHS funding the project will also evaluate the success of these pilots and the potential of extending coverage across the province.

The Bone and Joint Health SCN SpineAccess Alberta project wants to improve access to care for all Albertans with back pain.