

Provincial Breast Health Initiative - Announcement

We are very excited to share some great news! The Cancer Strategic Clinical Network has received a mandate and support to address shortcomings with breast health in Alberta. This multi-year initiative will improve care across the continuum for women at risk of or with breast cancer in Alberta. It has reach across several SCNs and includes partnership with patients and families, CancerControl Alberta, the five Zones, and community providers.

The first year focus of this initiative will be to improve diagnostics assessment and perioperative care. For diagnostic assessment, we aim to implement principles of care that will get women with a suspicious breast lesion to definitive diagnosis and management with an appropriate care provider without diagnostic delays and with an improved patient experience. This includes facilitated referral, closed communication loops between providers, central triage to most appropriate care provider, standardized patient education and consistent radiologic evaluation reporting. For perioperative care, we aim to implement principles of care that will provide faster recovery in hospital and same day breast cancer surgery in medically fit patients. This includes standardized patient education and outpatient supports. We anticipate that development and implementation of these provincial pathways will result in better quality of care and reduced inefficiencies within the health system.

An end-to-end breast health pathway will be the anchor for this work and subsequent initiatives in future years. In parallel with this work, the Cancer and Surgery SCNs and CancerControl Alberta are supporting the breast reconstruction care community in Alberta to develop an evidence and consensus-based provincial strategy to improve quality, access and efficiency of breast reconstructive care in Alberta.

Much foundational work has been completed and is ongoing by the breast health community in Alberta (patients, providers, administrators) to deliver excellent care to women in Alberta. This affords an opportunity to address gaps in care delivery in some jurisdictions while also driving innovations in care delivery in others.

For further information about this work and the Cancer Strategic Clinical Network, please contact Angela Estey | angela.estey@ahs.ca.