

Strategic Clinical Networks

Alberta Rectal Cancer Clinical Pathway (ARCCP)

The Goal

The Alberta Rectal Cancer Clinical Pathway (ARCCP) strives to reduce recurrence rates of rectal cancer in Alberta. This pathway is a sequence of steps in the care of rectal cancer patients from diagnosis to treatment to follow-up.

This pathway will be implemented through delivery of education sessions and providing ongoing feedback on performance and outcomes to multidisciplinary physician groups managing care of this patient population in Alberta. The 3-year project was initiated in early 2014 and is funded by a Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) research grant.

The Process

The ARCCP was developed with multidisciplinary input from groups of Surgeons, Radiologists, Pathologists and Oncologists with strong expertise and experience in rectal cancer care. Implementation of this clinical pathway is underway and includes:

- Engagement of multidisciplinary physician groups across the province in understanding local challenges to implementation of the clinical pathway
- Delivery of physician education to reinforce optimal care and highlight pitfalls in practice
- Implementation of structured reporting checklists for consistent and searchable clinical documentation in the electronic health record
- Development of a measurement and reporting system to provide physicians ongoing feedback on individual performance and outcomes
- Creation of tools for establishment of multidisciplinary tumor boards to ensure provision of care according to clinical practice guidelines

The Outcome

Baseline data on comprehensive quality measures across the clinical pathway has been collected and disseminated to stakeholders. Twenty Surgeons practicing across 12 facilities in Alberta participated in an interactive full-day multidisciplinary education session. Future work includes delivery of an education session to Alberta Pathologists and Pathology Assistants and launch of a provincial surgical synoptic report.

The Team

This project is led by a group of academic cancer surgeons, in partnership with the Cancer Strategic Clinical Network and Zone operational teams.