Cancer Strategic Clinical Network

Innovation Pipeline

In 2019, the Alberta Health Services' Innovation and Impact team launched a formalized framework that describes steps needed to advance and adopt promising innovations into the health system. The Health System Innovation Pipeline describes five steps: idea generation; proof of concept testing; implementation test in Alberta; implementation work to scale; and implementation for sustainability. Each step defines robust evidence-based criteria across the six dimensions of quality and assessments of economic value required to advance health system innovations within AHS in a systematic way. It also sets out criteria for unsuccessful innovations to be stopped early and successful innovations that improve health and/or results in cost savings to be scaled and spread provincially. There is also a pressing need to address challenges with adoption/de-adoption of innovations in cancer care into the health system through a standardized and robust pathway.

The Cancer Strategic Clinical Network's innovation pipeline provides a forum to generate ideas, establish criteria to help identify and select good ideas that align with the SCN's transformational roadmap to invest in. The innovation pipeline addresses challenges with adopting/de-adopting innovations in cancer care into the health system through a standardized and robust pathway.

A pipeline working group was established with the following objectives:

- To develop and test a robust process for gap identification and idea generation
- To develop and test a set of criteria for selecting ideas for proof-of-concept evaluation
- To define a proposed strategy for funding enablers for proof-of-concept evaluation
- To recommend quality indicators for monitoring efficiency and innovation level of the pipeline
- To develop a pathway to procurement and adoption/de-adoption of innovations in cancer care into the health system
- To develop a communication strategy and plan for disseminating information on the pipeline

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Updated September 2020