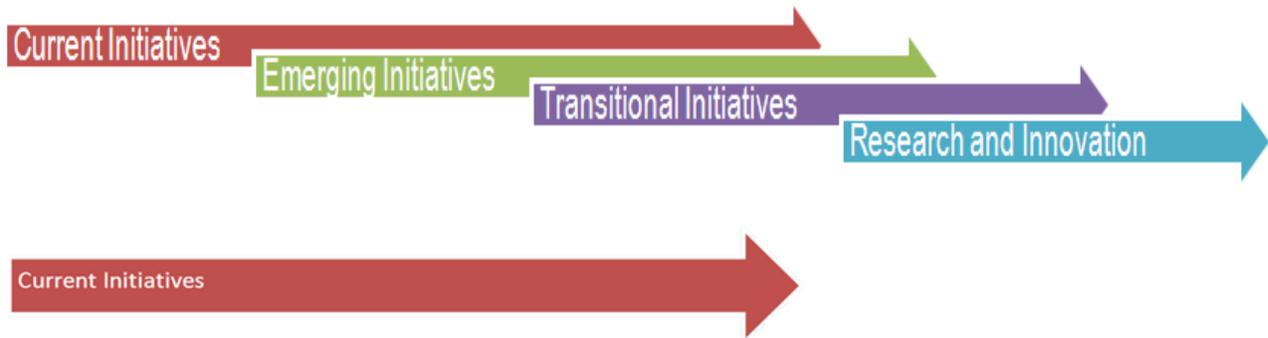


## Cancer SCN Core Committee Project Updates – December 2016

The Cancer Strategic Clinical Network is committed to providing its Core Committee and Stakeholders with timely and relevant updates related to its projects and activities. For more information about any of the updates below, please contact [Angela.Estey@ahs.ca](mailto:Angela.Estey@ahs.ca).



### **Rectal Cancer Pathway:**

- An audit and feedback system has been established to provide individual physician feedback on performance and outcomes.
  - The first set of individual Surgeon feedback reports cards are being distributed to 23 of 66 Surgeons who managed rectal cancer care in 2013 and 2015
  - Feedback reports for Radiologists, Pathologists and Oncologists are in development.
- A website with clinical pathway education materials and resources is being developed. This will be housed on the 'Core Community Platform – Cancer SCN' website with launch planned for January.
- An value-for-money analysis of the rectal cancer clinical pathway is being conducted with support from Health Technology Assessment

### **Provincial Breast Health Initiative:**

- A provincial breast health end-to-end pathway and consensus-based future improvement priorities was developed by clinicians across the continuum of care and patient advisors and distributed to stakeholders in October - November
- A steering committee with medical and administrative leadership to provide oversight to the provincial Breast Health Initiative was convened on October 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 to review and discuss overall project plan for the breast cancer perioperative care pathway and diagnostic assessment pathway initiatives
- Meetings in each Zone are being held in November-January with clinician representatives and operational leads from Surgery, Primary Care, Radiology and Navigation to gather information on current state of breast cancer diagnostic assessment care and brainstorm solutions for facilitated referral pathways and on current state
- Meetings in each Zone are being held in November-January with clinician representatives and operational leads from Surgery, Nursing, and Navigation to gather information on current state of breast cancer perioperative care and identify requirements to implement breast cancer surgery as a day surgery procedure in medically fit patients

### Provincial Breast Reconstruction Pathway:

- A business plan to identify actionable ways of improving access, efficiency, and quality of breast reconstruction for women in Alberta was presented to AHS Executive in October. Currently awaiting next steps.

### Palliative and End of Life Care:

- A workshop on Advanced Care Planning (ACP) for SCNs and teams developing clinical care pathways is being planned for January-March to stimulate thinking and collaboration on embedding ACP into routine clinical practice across the continuum of care, including cancer care.



**Emerging Initiatives are projects and partnerships that are currently being considered and/or planned by the Cancer SCN and its stakeholders.**

### Thyroid Cancer Pathway

- **Initiative Summary:** Develop and implement a thyroid cancer clinical care pathway that will ensure guideline-based care, enhance pathology services, introduce molecular diagnostics, and support the development of a thyroid cancer clinic.
- **Next Steps:** The thyroid cancer pathway team and the Cancer SCN leadership teams are meeting in December to discuss how this work can be best advanced.

### Bladder Cancer Pathway

- **Initiative Summary:** Develop and implement an evidence-based, patient-informed clinical care pathway for bladder cancer that will standardize the patient experience and patient care, improve patient reported outcomes, and build capacity for the future.
- **Next Steps:** Literature reviews and environmental scans are currently underway to support this work. A larger stakeholder meeting is being planned to discuss next steps.

### Appropriate Utilization of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)

- **Initiative Summary:** Develop, validate, and implement a pan-Alberta 50-gene targeted NGS panel for the most common, clinical, and therapeutically relevant somatic cancer mutations; in addition to developing and adopting provincial standards of appropriate utilization for the pan-Alberta 50-gene targeted NGS panel.
- **Next Steps:** There are important provincial discussions around this topic occurring in the organization, with CancerControl Alberta leadership as an active participant. It was suggested at the CORE Committee meeting that we wait to hear the outcome from these strategic discussions as they might influence next steps.

### Palliative Care Early and Systematic (PACES)

- **Initiative Summary:** Promote systematic, early use of palliative care for incurable cancer beginning in colorectal cancer with the development of a palliative care pathway with an effective implementation plan adaptable to local contexts. This initiative will also look to encourage earlier referral to community-based palliative care nurses.
- **Next Steps:** The Cancer SCN will be a Collaborator to the CIHR grant application and we will continue to participate in pan-SCN and provincial discussions to advance palliative and end-

of-life care (PEOLC) work. A follow-up discussion is being set up with the PACES project team in January.

#### Inappropriate Cervical Cancer Screening

- **Initiative Summary:** Engage and support primary care providers to increase appropriate screening through enhancing provider communication and education, timely reporting and access to screening information, and standardizing clinical pathways.
- **Next Steps:** There is provincial work mandated by Alberta Health focusing on inappropriate use of lab and diagnostic imaging testing on-going, and this is an area AHS Lab Services will play a key role. The Cancer SCN will convene a meeting comprised of clinical experts, representatives from the Alberta Medical Association, and Alberta Health to advance this work. In addition, the Cancer SCN will reach out to health economics groups in an effort to enhance the value for money and return on investment aspects of this work.

#### Pharmacy Telephone Consult Service

- **Initiative Summary:** Develop pharmacy-led telephone-based provincial services to complete best possible medication history by pharmacy technician for all provincial cancer patients prior to their first ambulatory clinic visit, provide oral chemotherapy management service, and provide cancer pain management for all CancerControl patients referred to the clinical pain pharmacist follow-up service.
- **Next Steps:** It was suggested this work might be best integrated within CancerControl Alberta Operations, aligning it with work currently underway.



Transitional Initiatives

**Transitional Initiatives are projects and partnerships that are currently close to completion or have been successfully transitioned to operations by the Cancer SCN and its stakeholders.**

#### Head & Neck Cancer Pathway:

- The first release of the automated monthly dashboard report to monitor key outcome measures of head & neck cancer patients was sent out in November.
- A project closure report has been developed highlighting early results, lessons learned, and clinical care pathway development and implementation methodology.

#### Other Work Underway:

- The Cancer SCN Transformational Roadmap will be updated based upon the discussions at the October 13 2016 Cancer SCN Core Committee meeting. We aim to seek feedback from key stakeholders and finalize the document in Winter 2016.
- The Cancer SCN website ([www.ahs.ca/cancerscn](http://www.ahs.ca/cancerscn)) is regularly refreshed with monthly news updates, project information, and other relevant material.

## Research and Innovation

### Cancer Strategic Clinical Network – Research and Innovation Updates

The Cancer Strategic Clinical Network is committed to providing its Core Committee and Stakeholders with timely and relevant updates related to the research and innovation agenda, projects, and activities.

**\*NEW\*** work in the area of research and innovation is described below.

For full list of projects and initiatives or for more information about Cancer SCN research and innovation, please contact Assistant Scientific Director, [Melissa.Shea-Budgell@ahs.ca](mailto:Melissa.Shea-Budgell@ahs.ca).

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Seed Grant competition:

We are pleased to announce that CancerControl Alberta has agreed to partner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual seed grant competition. Up to 5 awards are available at up to \$25,000 each.

- Focus: ***Clinical care pathways, Choosing Wisely, and Precision Medicine***, within the activities of generating new knowledge or applying knowledge
- Application due date: December 14, 2016
- Core Committee Review: February 21, 2017 (location TBD)

#### CIHR competitions:

The Cancer SCN is partnering on several applications, which have been submitted to various CIHR competitions:

- PI: Dr. Winson Cheung – Health Services and Health Economics Research for Cancer Control Competition
- PI: Dr. Shannon MacDonald – Improved Immunization Coverage Initiative Competition
- PI: Dr. Claire De Oliveira – Project Scheme Fall Competition
- PI: Dr. Carla Prado – Project Scheme Fall Competition
- PI: Dr. Elise Fear – Collaborative Health Research Projects Competition

#### Futile Treatment in Cancer Care:

The Cancer SCN is funding a small project to examine futile radiotherapy (i.e., use of more than 1 fraction of radiotherapy in painful bone metastases) in metastatic cancer.

- Title: ***Futile Radiotherapy at the End of Life: Examining the Impact of a Sustained Knowledge-Based Intervention (FutRE)***
- Investigative team: Dr. Marc Kerba (PI), Dr. Jackson Wu, and Dr. Alysa Fairchild
- The research protocol has been developed and work is now set to begin. The Cancer SCN will support Dr. Kerba and his team by providing guidance and review, as necessary.