

Cancer SCN Core Committee Project Updates – Q1 & Q2

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.

Provincial Breast Health Initiative:

- **Recruitment updates:**
 - **Dr. John Kortbeek** has been named Provincial Breast Health Initiative Medical Lead
 - Recruitment for North and South breast medical leads is underway
 - **Janice Chobanuk** has been seconded to the Provincial Breast Health Initiative as project manager providing leadership and support to advance breast reconstruction pathways and the Edmonton diagnostic assessment pathway

- **Provincial Breast Health Initiative Steering Committee:**
 - This is chaired by **Dr. John Kortbeek** and **Angela Estey** and has been established with representation from each Zone, CCA, Cancer and Surgery SCNs and a public advisor
 - First meeting was held on September 8th, 2017 to provide an overview of breast health pathway work to date, with a presentation by Dr. Francois Belanger on our over-arching goal to establish a provincial breast health program with strategic shifts in care delivery
 - A best practice review of comprehensive breast care programs and current state analysis of breast health service delivery in Alberta is underway

- **Pathway for delivering major breast cancer surgery as same-day surgery:**
 - A provincial perioperative patient education working group is overseeing development of:
 - A provincial perioperative patient education print booklet with input from patients and breast surgical community – launch planned on MyHealth.Alberta.ca in December, 2017
 - A provincial online curriculum for perioperative patient education including information and video resources – development teams being assembled in November, 2017
 - A provincial dashboard report in Tableau is in testing phase with quarterly reporting on key process measures and adverse outcomes by surgical facility – launch planned in November, 2017
 - A patient experience survey for perioperative care is in development
 - Outreach is being planned with key breast surgeon and ops leads at each surgical site to support local staff learning needs, protocol development, use of dashboard report and implementation planning for same-day surgery pathway
 - Data on same-day surgery rates for mastectomies is shown below:

Same Day Surgery For Mastectomies	Fiscal year					
	2016/17			Apr – Jun, 2017		
	Yes	%	Total	Yes	%	Total
Alberta	220	21%	1,050	87	33%	264

- **Pathway for expediting diagnostic work-up and management of highly suspicious breast lesions:**
 - Edmonton:
 - An opportunity for an expedited referral pathway was discussed at Comprehensive Breast Care Program Quality Improvement meeting with representatives from major DI groups and macro statement on breast imaging reports is being drafted

- An opportunity for an expedited referral pathway in Edmonton based on Alberta Thoracic Oncology Program model was presented at leadership meeting for primary care networks in Edmonton and information on pathway is being circulated for feedback
- A process to expedite referrals is being developed by RN Coordinator North in collaboration with DI groups, Primary Care Networks, and the Comprehensive Breast Care Program in Edmonton
- Calgary:
 - A draft pathway to expedite referrals in Calgary was co-designed by primary care providers, breast surgeons and radiologists and reviewed at a joint meeting with Health Systems Support/primary care leadership group in Calgary
 - A mechanism to notify RN Coordinator South on abnormal mammogram results and a macro statement on breast imaging reports is being developed by Radiology
 - A registry and process to track surgical referrals for patients with highly suspicious imaging abnormalities in Calgary is being developed by RN Coordinator South
 - Specialist link online resources with information on breast health services in Calgary for primary care providers is being co-developed with Health Systems Support Task Group
- Measurement:
 - A data sharing agreement and data feed is being pursued with the Alberta Society of Radiology – Community Mammography database
 - Provisional measures on timelines for diagnostic work-up and management and patient experience surveys are under development
- **Advancing breast reconstruction:**
 - A best practice review and gap analysis for breast reconstruction is being compiled
 - A patient focus group to understand patient info needs on breast reconstruction is being conducted in October, 2017
 - A working group to address patient info needs on breast reconstruction is being established
 - A working group to define measures and targets for breast reconstruction is being established
 - Teams in each Zone to plan surgical coordination are being established

Rectal Cancer Pathway:

- An audit and feedback system has been established to provide individual physician feedback on performance and outcomes
 - First round feedback reports for radiologists, pathologists, and oncologists and second round of feedback reports for surgeons are in development
 - Chart reviews for patients diagnosed with rectal cancer during 2016 are underway through a contracted Registrar from the Alberta Cancer Registry
- Sustainability planning discussions with Cancer and Surgery SCNs, DIMR, Cancer Surveillance and Reporting, Cancer Surgery Alberta, and Alberta Cancer Registry are planned for November 2017
- An online resource for the Alberta Rectal Cancer Initiative, with clinical pathway education materials, is being developed for publication on the Cancer SCN external website

Palliative and End of Life Care:

- Mandate and support for a pan-SCN initiative, with support from Critical Care, Emergency and Cancer SCN, has been obtained from Alberta Health to understand acute care utilization in patients with oncological and non-oncological advanced or end-stage disease, including care provider and patient perspectives.
 - A stakeholder meeting to develop the study protocol was held in Edmonton at end of May with

participation from Critical Care, Palliative Care, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Nephrology, Cardiology, Pulmonology, Primary Care, and patients and families.

- A Phase 1 study protocol to quantify current unmet palliative care needs for patients with oncological or non-oncological advanced end-stage disease presenting to Emergency Department is in final stages of review
- A Phase 2 study protocol to understand patient, family and provider perspectives on unmet palliative care needs presenting in the acute care system
- A workshop on Advanced Care Planning (ACP) for SCNs and teams developing clinical care pathways was held in May to stimulate thinking and collaboration on embedding ACP into routine clinical practice across the continuum of care, including cancer care.

Bladder Cancer Pathway:

- PaCER-led bladder cancer patient focus groups will be held in Calgary (Oct. 13) and Edmonton (Oct. 27) to help identify issues and areas for improvement along the bladder cancer pathway. These findings will help inform a business case aiming to improve bladder cancer care in Alberta.
- Analytical support is being provided to identify and summarize the current state of bladder cancer care within Alberta.
- The work to-date of the bladder cancer pathway has been accepted for a poster presentation at the Quality & Safety Summit 2017 in Edmonton on October 31 2017.

Cancer SCN Research:

- Cancer SCN & CancerControl Alberta 2017 Seed Grant Competition was launched in July, 2017
 - Scope: Cancer-related health services research that will improve the quality of cancer care delivery. Alignment with 3 key areas: 1) clinical pathways, 2) choosing wisely, 3) precision medicine
 - Funding capacity: 5 up to \$25,000 grants
 - Participants: Applicants who submitted their applications in December 2016 and new applicants
 - Submission deadline: October 2, 2017
 - Number of applications submitted: 32 applications (currently under review)
 - Date grant decision: December 8, 2017
- 4 letters of support provided to researchers related to the network for CIHR grant applications.
- Meetings with various researchers related to the network to discuss their work and ways the Cancer SCN can support them.
- Meetings with various institutions to discuss potential collaborations (e.g., MacEwan University, Institute of Health Economics, SPOR SUPPORT Unit Platforms, the Tomorrow Project, Cancer Research Institute of Northern Alberta).
- Research support to other SCNs and AHS entities (e.g., review of Surgery SCN seed grant applications, review of letters of intent to the AHS-Research Challenge, advice on the Tomorrow Project grant competition, advice on the AHS Research Story)

Other News and Work Underway:

- The Cancer SCN welcomes Dr. Douglas Stewart (Senior Medical Director) and Dr. Paula Robson (Scientific Director) to the leadership team.
- Tara Bond (Senior Consultant) has been brought on to support both the Cancer and Critical Care SCNs.
- We are excited to announce the Cancer SCN Transformational Roadmap has been refreshed. Please let

us know if you have any feedback or comments.

- The provisional measurement and reporting methodology and preliminary results for the breast health initiative – perioperative care pathway was presented to clinical analytics community at the Western Canadian Universities Big Data Health conference in September, 2017
- The Cancer SCN website (www.ahs.ca/cancerscn) is regularly refreshed with monthly news updates, project information, and other relevant material.