

Cancer SCN Core Committee Project Updates – Q3 2017-2018

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:**
 - **Connie Hill** (Administrative Support) has been brought on to support the breast health pathway work.
- **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, CancerControl Alberta, Primary Care, Cancer and Surgery SCNs, and a public advisor.
 - Second meeting was held on December 1 2017 to provide i) an overview of current breast health measurement and reporting in Alberta (with presentations from multiple information management and analytics groups) and ii) an overview of breast reconstruction recommendations that are feasible to advance in the coming year.
 - A best practice review of comprehensive breast care programs in Alberta was completed.
 - Work is underway to scope out an end-to-end breast health pathway measurement dashboard.
- **Pathway For Delivering Major Breast Cancer Surgery As Same-Day Surgery:**
 - A provincial perioperative patient education booklet has been developed with input from patients and breast surgical community and will be available to patients and providers as a print booklet and online on MyHealth.Alberta.ca in February 2018.
 - Provincial patient education videos on drain care and exercises after surgery, and pictorials of normal and abnormal post-op complications, are in development – timelines for launch online on MyHealth.Alberta.ca will be Spring 2018.
 - A patient experience survey for perioperative care has been launched in Edmonton and Calgary.
 - Outreach to key breast surgeon and ops leads at each surgical site is underway in Northern Alberta and Southern Alberta to support local staff orientation needs on the patient education package, orientation of leads to the dashboard report, and implementation of day surgery pathway.
 - Launch of a provincial dashboard report in Tableau with measures and adverse outcomes to surgical facilities has begun.
 - Updated data on same-day surgery rates for mastectomies is shown below:

Same Day Surgery For Mastectomies	Fiscal year								
	2016/17			Q1 (Apr – Jun 2017)			Q2 (Jul – Sep 2017)		
	Yes	%	Total	Yes	%	Total	Yes	%	Total
Alberta	220	21%	1,050	86	32%	271	71	30%	235

- **Pathway For Expediting Diagnostic Work-Up And Management Of Highly Suspicious Breast Lesions:**
 - A pathway to expedite referrals and consults for patients with highly suspicious breast lesions on imaging has been implemented in Edmonton (Nov 2017) and Calgary (Jan 2018) with support from Cancer SCN RN Coordinators North and South, respectively, and in collaboration with Diagnostic Imaging groups, Primary Care Networks, breast programs, and surgeons.

- A patient experience survey for the diagnostic assessment phase of care has been launched in Edmonton and Calgary.
- Preliminary evaluation report of impacts anticipated for April 2018.
- Collaboration with Calgary PCN leadership/ Health Systems Support Task Group is underway to co-develop 'Specialist' link online resources with information on breast health services in Calgary for primary care providers.
- Measurement:
 - A data sharing agreement and data feed is being pursued with the Alberta Society of Radiology – Community Mammography database
 - Provisional and local measures in Calgary and Edmonton on timelines for diagnostic work-up and management and patient experience surveys have been defined
- **Advancing Breast Reconstruction:**
 - A best practice review and gap analysis for breast reconstruction has been compiled.
 - A patient focus group to understand patient info needs on breast reconstruction was conducted (Oct 2017) and a summary report was generated.
 - Plastic Surgery leads in North and South have been engaged in discussion of work that is feasible and of high utility to advance breast reconstruction patient education, surgical coordination, and measurement in the next year.
 - Discussions are underway with MyHealth.Alberta.ca to re-organize and validate current breast health patient education content to improve organization and navigation of information and linkages for patients.
 - A working group to define measures and targets for breast reconstruction is being established with a Surgery SCN lead and Plastic Surgery co-lead.

Rectal Cancer Pathway:

- An audit and feedback system has been established to provide individual physician feedback on performance and outcomes:
 - First round feedback report templates for radiologists, pathologists, and oncologists are under review by key physician leads from each group.
 - Chart reviews for patients diagnosed with rectal cancer during 2016 have been completed through a collaboration with the Alberta Cancer Registry and data analysis is underway.
 - Second round of surgeon feedback reports is planned for March 2018.
- Sustainability plan for on-going data collection and analytics has been confirmed by Cancer Surveillance and Reporting, Alberta Cancer Registry, and Surgery SCN.
- An online resource for the Alberta Rectal Cancer Initiative, with clinical pathway education materials, is being developed with AHS Web Communications for publication on the Cancer SCN external website.

Accelerating the Diagnosis of Cancer:

- Evidence is being gathered to frame the issue of untimely cancer diagnoses in Alberta.
- A stakeholder meeting has been scheduled on Friday, February 23 to discuss this emerging priority for the Cancer SCN.

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 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 being submitted for ethics review.

- Study coordinator recruitment at pilot study sites is underway (University of Alberta Hospital, Grey Nuns Community Hospital, Northeast Community Health Centre).
- Protocols have been developed for systematic literature reviews on effectiveness of Emergency Department based-palliative care interventions and on screening tools to identify patients in the Emergency Department with palliative care needs.

Bladder Cancer Pathway:

- Patient and Community Engagement Researcher (PaCER)-led bladder cancer patient focus groups were 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. We are currently investigating approaches to link Alberta Cancer Registry data with Pathology data to better identify cancer staging.
- The PaCER work for the bladder cancer pathway was presented as a poster at the Quality & Safety Summit 2017 in Edmonton on October 31 2017.

Cancer SCN Research:

- Distribution of 4 awards of up to \$25,000 from the Cancer SCN / CancerControl Alberta 2017 Seed Grant Competition (32 applicants):
 - **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
 - **Awardees:**
 - Dr. Oliver Bathe (University of Calgary)
Project title: Feasibility of Guiding Systemic Therapy for Colorectal Cancer based on Response-Associated Changes in Circulating Metabolites
 - Dr. Karen Kopciuk (University of Calgary)
Project title: Test of cure: Use of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing to optimize the cervical cancer screening clinical pathway post-treatment
 - Dr. Michael Monument (University of Calgary)
Project title: Surgical Decision Making in the Management of Metastatic Bone Disease: Matching Patient Expectations with Surgical Goals
 - Dr. Carla Prado (University of Alberta)
Project title: Defining Energy Requirements during Cancer Trajectory
- 5 letters of support to researchers related to the network for applications to major funding opportunities.
- Meetings with various institutions to discuss potential collaborations (e.g., Metabolomic Technologies Inc).
- Ongoing collaboration in research projects including The Better Program, and Palliative Care, Early and Systematic (PaCES) -Impact on Patient and Health System.
- Attendance to and participation in national academic meetings (Audit & Feedback National Meeting - Scientific Update Meeting, APERSU Annual End-User Meeting).
- Research support to other SCNs and AHS entities (e.g., advice to Research, Innovation and Analytics (RIA) on the presentation of the 2017 RIA annual report; discussion of research priorities to be considered for the PRIHS-4 grant opportunity; review of applications to the Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition SCN 2017

Seed Grant Competition; review of abstracts to the 2018 ASIP – Critical Caser SCN Trainee Research Competition; review of applications to the AHS-Research Challenge).

Other News and Work Underway:

- Registration for the Networks Leadership Symposium 2018 is open. The symposium will take place in Vancouver, BC on March 19 & 20 and will focus on networks as balancing acts: managing inherent tensions. For additional details, please follow this link: <https://www.eply.com/NLS2018>
- The Canadian Cancer Statistics Advisory Committee is in the process of conducting a review of the [Canadian Cancer Statistics](#) publication. This may mean changes to the publication's content, format and frequency. They are asking for input to fill out their 15 minute questionnaire between January 24 and February 15 here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/statsquestionnaire>
- How can you help? Please complete this questionnaire. It should not take more than 15 minutes.
- Who should complete this questionnaire? This questionnaire is for anyone who uses cancer statistics. Even if you are not familiar with the Canadian Cancer Statistics publication, your input is important.
- The questionnaire will be available between January 24 and February 15 in English [link] and French [link]
- The Cancer SCN website (www.ahs.ca/cancerscn) is regularly refreshed with monthly news updates, project information, and other relevant material.
- For a wonderful video highlighting our Cancer SCN Patient Advisor Tricia Antonini, please visit link: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7COvrOPXbil>