

Cancer SCN Core Committee Project Updates – Q4 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:**
 - **Chad Hay** (Senior Project Manager) 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 public advisors.
 - Third meeting was held on February 13 2018 to approve revised ACATS codes for breast reconstruction and to engage steering committee in a broad discussion of potential future priorities for breast health in Alberta.
- **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 was made available as a print booklet and online on MyHealth.Alberta.ca in March 2018.
 - Provincial patient education videos on drain care and exercises after surgery have been developed. Revised discharge instruction sheets and pictorials of normal and abnormal post-op complications are in development. Timelines for launch on MyHealth.Alberta.ca will be Spring 2018.
 - A patient experience survey for perioperative care has been launched in Edmonton and Calgary – preliminary findings anticipated in Fall 2018.
 - Implementation of a major breast cancer day surgery pathway has been initiated or is completed for all sites across the province.
 - Launch of a provincial dashboard report in Tableau with measures and adverse outcomes to surgical facilities has been completed for all sites across the province.
 - 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)			Q3 (Oct – Dec 2017)		
Zone	Yes	%	Total	Yes	%	Total	Yes	%	Total	Yes	%	Total
South	0	0%	97	2	7%	28	2	8%	24	2	13%	16
Calgary	54	17%	322	13	17%	75	14	17%	83	16	21%	76
Central	10	11%	89	2	9%	23	3	14%	21	3	30%	10
Edmonton	149	38%	397	61	57%	107	48	62%	78	67	61%	109
North	0	0%	42	4	36%	11	3	43%	7	5	31%	16
Alberta	213	22%	947	82	34%	244	70	33%	213	93	41%	227

Note: Mastectomies with immediate breast reconstruction excluded

- **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.

- As of March 2018:
 - 119 BI-RADS 5 results received in Calgary
 - 204 BI-RADS 5 results received in Edmonton
- Preliminary evaluation report of impacts to diagnostic assessment wait-times anticipated in April 2018.
- A patient experience survey for the diagnostic assessment phase of care has been launched in Edmonton and Calgary – preliminary findings anticipated in Fall 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.
- Legal consent was obtained from 100% of community breast imaging providers in Alberta. This partnership with the Alberta Society of Radiologists will enable sharing of diagnostic mammography and biopsy data with AHS Analytics. Information Management Agreement and Privacy Impact Assessment are being reviewed by AHS Analytics and Alberta Society of Radiologists.
- **Advancing Breast Reconstruction:**
 - ACATS codes for breast reconstruction accepted by Steering Committee are updated. Old codes were redacted as of January 2018.
 - www.breastreconstructioncanada.ca has been reviewed by Plastic Surgeon leads and accepted for adoption as a provincial online patient education resource to be linked on MyHealth.Alberta.ca.
 - Work is underway with MyHealth.Alberta.ca to organize all breast health information resources on myhealth.alberta.ca into a Health Topic landing page with easy navigation to different resources including breast reconstruction.
 - A triage form based on clinical practice guidelines and inventory list of procedures by site are being developed to facilitate breast reconstruction triage.
 - Work is underway to review a preliminary breast reconstruction measurement framework by Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle for future review and vetting with Plastic Surgery.

Rectal Cancer Pathway:

- The PRIHS funded rectal cancer pathway work is complete as of March 31 2018. Plans for sustainability include the following:
 - Data collection will be sustained by collaboration between Alberta Cancer Registry and Surgery SCN.
 - Data analytics will be sustained by Cancer Surveillance and Reporting.
 - Clinical leadership in discussion with GI Tumor Team Lead regarding on-going administrative support.
- Early results from pathway implementation have seen the following:
 - Increased use of rectal cancer pre-operative MRI for curative resections from 53% to 76%
 - Increased completeness of synoptic MRI report for pre-operative MRIs from 6% to 28%
 - Increased grade 3 total mesorectal excisions for curative resections from 66% to 82%
 - Increased pathologic reporting of total mesorectal excision assessments from 91% to 98%
- AHS Web Communications is publishing an online resource for the Alberta Rectal Cancer Initiative with clinical pathway education materials on AHS external website.
- Feedback report templates for Surgeons, Radiologists, Pathologists, and Oncologists have been revised based on feedback from key physician leads.
- Analysis and generation of individual feedback reports for patients diagnosed with rectal cancer during 2016 is underway.

Accelerating the Diagnosis of Cancer:

- This emerging initiative aims to address diagnostic delays for cancer.
- A meeting was held on February 23 2018, with key stakeholders including patients, clinicians, administrators, researchers, and membership of Cancer SCN Core Committee. This meeting included preliminary discussions on feasibility and need for facilitated diagnosis and referral pathways, patient and provider education supports, centralized access models, and measurement.
- A meeting with patient advisors is being held in April to discuss guiding principles for co-design of a comprehensive provincial strategy for facilitating cancer diagnosis with patients.
- Qualitative interviews with patients and family members are being planned to understand patient/family perspectives on the problem and identify priority areas.
- An environmental scan of facilitated cancer diagnosis initiatives in Alberta and other jurisdictions is being conducted in collaboration with Institute of Healthcare Economics.
- Preliminary data analyses on cancer wait-times in Alberta including association with staging, treatment and hospital admissions is being completed and will be reviewed with Screening Program leads and Tumor Team leads.

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 has received ethics and administrative approval.
 - Study coordinator recruitment at pilot study sites is complete (University of Alberta Hospital, Grey Nuns Community Hospital) and study has been initiated at University of Alberta Hospital in March, 2018. Anticipate study initiation at Grey Nuns Community Hospital to commence in April 2018.
 - 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 is underway. Anticipate findings to be disseminated in Summer 2018.

Bladder Cancer Pathway:

- A final report was created based off the Patient and Community Engagement Researcher (PaCER)-led bladder cancer patient focus groups held in Calgary and Edmonton (Oct 2017), where patients helped identify issues and areas for improvement along the bladder cancer pathway. A follow-up validation meeting with the participants was also held (Feb 2018) to confirm the findings and key messages. 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. A student has been contracted to help with data extraction from chart reviews.

Cancer SCN Research:

- Provided two letters of support to researchers for applications to major funding opportunities.
- Developed a partnership with the AHS Engagement & Patient Experience team.
- Ongoing collaboration in research projects including The Better Program, and Palliative Care, Early and Systematic (PaCES) -Impact on Patient and Health System.
- Attended/participated at the national academic meeting, Choosing Wisely Alberta Symposium: Integration for Appropriateness.
- Provided research support to Research, Innovation and Analytics (RIA) on the presentation of the 2018 RIA

annual report; and provided advice to AHS-Research Challenge team on front line staff and researcher engagement.

- Participated in the review committees for three seed grant competition and five studentship competitions from other SCNs.

Other News and Work Underway:

- To strengthen their relationship, the Cancer SCN and Cancer provincial program have integrated the two teams to align efforts of both CancerControl Alberta and the SCNs in order to catalyze evidence informed best practices, treatments and trials to improve outcomes of the patients we serve. For further details, please see the attached memo.
- Adam Brown, our Cancer SCN Patient Advisor, had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Verna Yiu at the SCN team meeting on March 6 2018 to hear her views on patient engagement. It was an informative interview and demonstrated our CEO and organization's commitment to seeking meaningful input from our patients, families, and communities to continuously improve our services.
- The Cancer SCN website (www.ahs.ca/cancerscn) is regularly refreshed with monthly news updates, project information, and other relevant material.

