

Provincial Breast Health Initiative - Overview

Brief Description

Breast cancer is common and represents a major part of our cancer system. In Alberta, approximately 1 in 8 women will develop invasive breast cancer within their lifetime. While many patients receive excellent end-to-end breast health care, there are areas for improvement.

The Cancer Strategic Clinical Network™ (SCN) is leading the Provincial Breast Health Initiative with CancerControl Alberta and the Surgery SCN. Its initial mandate will target three breast cancer pathways, supported by new patient education materials and a provincial measurement and reporting framework.

The work will support the breast cancer community by designing and implementing care pathways starting with:

- Timely and appropriate diagnostic assessment of breast abnormalities
- Same-day surgery for medically and socially fit breast cancer patients
- Coordinated surgical care and access to breast reconstruction
- Addressing the information needs of women with breast cancer, including breast reconstruction.
- Ongoing measurement and feedback to clinical teams on outcomes

A Provincial Breast Health Steering Committee is in place to oversee and guide the work. Membership includes representation from the public, expert clinicians, primary care, administrators from the zones and provincial programs.

Project updates and results will be shared on the Cancer SCN website (www.ahs.ca/cancerscn). Please feel free to reach out to the Steering Committee Co-Chairs: John Kortbeek, Medical Lead Provincial Breast Health Initiative, and Angela Estey, Executive Director Cancer SCN; if you have any questions or require further information.