Cancer Strategic Clinical Network

Quarterly Update January to March 2022

The Cancer Strategic Clinical Network (CSCN) is committed to providing our Core Committee and stakeholders with updates regarding our projects and activities. Copies of these updates and other reports can be found on our webpage: www.ahs.ca/cancerscn

Future of Cancer Impact report

 Over the past year, CSCN has led the development of the Future of Cancer Impact (FoCI) report. The report will synthesize current data and evidence around cancer in Alberta and collaboratively identify opportunities and gaps to reduce the impact of cancer in Alberta over the next two decades.

Alberta Cancer Diagnosis (ACD) Initiative: Program and Pathways

The CSCN is co-designing a cancer diagnosis program with single-point access for all cancer diagnosis pathways, timely access to appropriate diagnostic work-up and referrals, and supports for Primary Care and patients. In addition, tumour specific cancer diagnosis pathways are being developed and implemented.

- A comprehensive research protocol was submitted to the Health Research Ethics Board
 of Alberta Community Health Committee. Ethics approval was granted in February. This
 submission will ensure engagement meets ethical requirements and protects the welfare
 of participants, while optimizing the utility and value of the information gathered to
 support quality improvement, system design and research.
- Interviews and focus groups with sub-populations are being completed.
 - For adolescent and young adults, older adults and their family members, newcomers, immigrants and members of different ethnic minorities in Alberta, sessions have already occurred or are in progress.
 - Engagement planning is underway for rural and remote populations,
 2SLGBTQIA+, disabled people in Alberta, and Indigenous people and communities.
- Engagement with Primary Care leaders continues to inform co-design of solutions for ACD. Primary Care physicians on the Steering Committee and the Engage to Design working group.
- Program elements for the ACD Program are under development with input from various stakeholders.
- An Evaluation Sub-Working Group (part of the Engage to Design Working Group) has been established. It will be co-chaired by Dr. Lee Green (University of Alberta) and Dr.



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Anna Pujadas Botey (Assistant Scientific Director, CSCN), and will develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation plan for the ACD initiative.

Lymphoma Diagnosis Pathway

- The Lymphoma Diagnosis Pathway has been implemented across the province other than in Grande Prairie. The Grande Prairie Cancer Centre recently opened, and implementation conversations are ongoing to ensure this pathway is incorporated into the host of services that this site offers.
- Preliminary data from the other sites (Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer) is showing that this pathway is expediting diagnoses when used.
- The CSCN continues to raise awareness and use by Primary Care and radiology...

Colorectal Cancer Diagnosis Pathway

- The Iron Deficiency Anemia (IDA) and High-Risk Rectal Bleeding (HRRB) pathways have been implemented in Edmonton and Calgary.
- Discussions underway to initiate expansion provincially.
- Similar to the Lymphoma Diagnosis Pathway, the increasing the awareness and usage
 of pathways with Primary Care is a prirority. The Cancer SCN is looking at potential
 solutions address pathway uptake within the ACD initiative.

Cancer Unknown Primary Diagnosis Pathway

- Work to develop the Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP) Pathway has started. Baseline
 information has been collected and will be used to guide discussions when the Oversight
 Committee launches in April.
- Interviews with key cancer system stakeholders and Primary Care are underway. The goal of these interviews is to create a process map of the current state and identify pain points where the CUP pathway can improve patient, provider, and system outcomes.

Head and Neck Cancer Diagnosis Pathway

- An evidence review to identify new findings in the diagnostic and staging workup, wait time for diagnosis and sociodemographic risk factors for head and neck cancer is ongoing. This evidence review will inform the development of a diagnostic pathway for head and neck cancer patients.
- A similar process to CUP will be followed to ensure the current state is well documented prior to developing the Head and Neck cancer diagnosis pathway.

CSCN Research

The CSCN research team supports priority initiatives of the CSCN as required. It also continues to engage with multiple stakeholders to identify and nurture research-practice partnerships, which will create and apply knowledge that improves cancer outcomes.

- A review of existing evidence on outcomes of follow-up care provided by specialist versus a Primary Care teams for patients diagnosed with cancer after curative treatment has been initiated. This work may inform discussions about cancer care in Alberta.
- We have established a partnership with the Alberta Registered Nurses Educational Trust (ARNET) to involve nurses in research related to the perspectives of colorectal cancer patients diagnosed in emergency departments and hospitals.
- We are collaborating with the BETTER team (Dr. Donna Manca, University of Alberta).
 We are participating as a member of BETTER Cancer Surveillance Clinical Working
 Group and will collaborate in updating the evidence for the cancer surveillance
 recommendations used in BETTER (breast cancer surveillance, colorectal cancer surveillance, and prostate cancer surveillance).
- CSCN 2020/21 quality indicators report has been completed, and is available upon request. It presents measures for the following indicators: 1) priorities (or questions) tackled by network partners, 2) participation of community of partners, 3) impact of community of partners, 4) projects advancing to test for impact, 5) projects advancing to spread and scale, 6) projects advancing to sustainment, 7) return on investment, 8) projects achieving proposed measures of success, and 9) change in key clinical outcome measures.
- The SCN Scientific Office Annual Impact Report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year has been released, and can be accessed here:
 https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/scn/ahs-scn-so-impact-report-2020-21.pdf

\Last updated: Mar 2022