

Low value cardiac testing - ECG

When you need an ECG. When you don't.



Choosing Wisely Canada does not recommend an electrocardiogram (ECG) for:

- Detecting heart disease in asymptomatic patients
- Predicting future risk
- Routine screening at an annual checkup
- Routine screening before surgery



Did you know

- 1.2 million ECGs are performed in Alberta every year
- About 30% of all tests and treatments are not necessary
- Cascade testing is 5x more common after an ECG



Goals and metrics

- 10% decrease in ECG utilization by 2026
- Review all current order sets with default ECGs by mid-2024
- Provincial spread of ECG algorithm
- Patient and physician acceptability



Initiatives

- Reduce pre-selected (default) ECGs in order sets
- Best Practice Advisories (alerts) in Connect Care
- Spread of developed decision-making algorithm
- Education and awareness campaigns



Project partners

- AHS Cardiovascular Health and Stroke SCN
- AHS Improving Health Outcomes Together
- AHS Clinical Operations
- Connect Care

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