

CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH & STROKE (CvHS) STRATEGIC CLINICAL NETWORK (SCN)

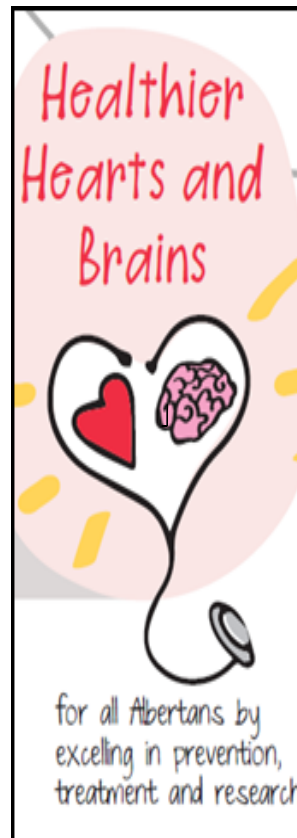
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Network Update— Year in Review

Highlights of what's new:

1. APSS final report released (<http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Stroke-Strategy-Alberta-2012.pdf>)
2. Red Deer Early Supported Discharge Team seeing stroke patients
3. CvHS success for PRIHS funding recipients: <http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/grants/prihs/results/2013-09/>
4. Medicine Hat Integrated Approach seeing Vascular Risk patients
5. NSTEMI Order Set development and rollout across the province
6. Report and recommendations on cardiac surgery wait times
7. Over 70 improvement facilitators trained in primary care and enrolling physician practices to implement and evaluate evidence-based approaches to screening for vascular risk



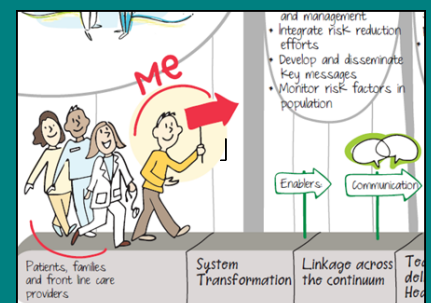
“Potentially we all may be patients and I have been impressed with the work of AHS and the SCNs to continue striving for improvement. I applaud the SCNs for their openness to patient input for the direction of future health care.” - Bob Gersbach, Patient Advisor

February is Heart Month—Look for upcoming tweets on Twitter at:

AHS_Behealthy

In This Issue

- Who are we?
- Where did we come from?
- What are we doing?
- What do these graphics mean and where did they come from?



Who Are We?

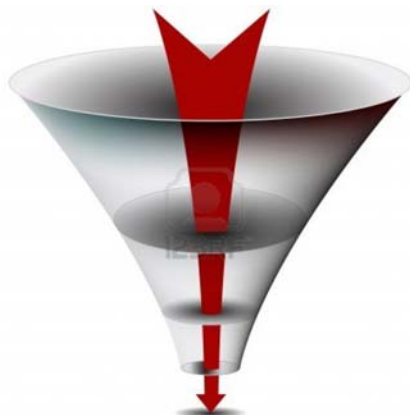
We believe that anyone who can be touched by cardiovascular disease or stroke has a stake and a voice in our network which includes patients, caregivers, health staff, physicians, researchers and even government. Who is the CvHS SCN? In a sense, you are and all Albertans are.

The Cardiovascular Health and Stroke Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) was launched in June 2012 to empower and support physician and clinical leaders to develop and implement evidence-based, clinician-lead, team-delivered health improvement strategies across Alberta. The SCN is comprised of a committed core team of strategic, operational and clinical content experts, patients, front-line staff from across care settings and facilities, and community groups that contribute to the quality agenda.

In addition to our **Core Committee**, there are a number of subcommittees and working groups that engage a broader range of front line staff and physicians and actively contribute to the SCN and its objectives. These groups will be described in the What are We Doing Now section on page 3.



Cardiac Clinical Network



CvHS SCN



Where Did We Come From?

The **Alberta Provincial Stroke Strategy (APSS)** was a province-wide approach to stroke care and prevention which laid the foundation from which health regions and subsequent zones and partners can share information about their stroke services, implement new services that are known to be effective, coordinate service delivery across boundaries and develop common ways to adopt evidence based practices that will get the biggest impact on health.

The **Alberta Cardiac Access Collaborative (ACAC)** was a provincial project to create system-wide changes to improve patient access to cardiac care and was funded by an \$11.8 million grant from the province. This grant began June 2007 and ended March 2009.

Goal: To “improve the patient journey” by creating a provincial structure and set of models improving patient access to cardiac services from symptom onset to rehabilitation.

The **AHS Cardiac Clinical Network** built its initiative off of the work of the ACAC. The AHS clinical networks have now evolved into the SCNs and we have joined

CvHS SCN Leadership Team

Dr. Blair O'Neill,
Senior Medical Director



Shelley Valaire,
Vice President



Dr. Colleen Norris,
Scientific Director



Louise Morrin,
Executive Director

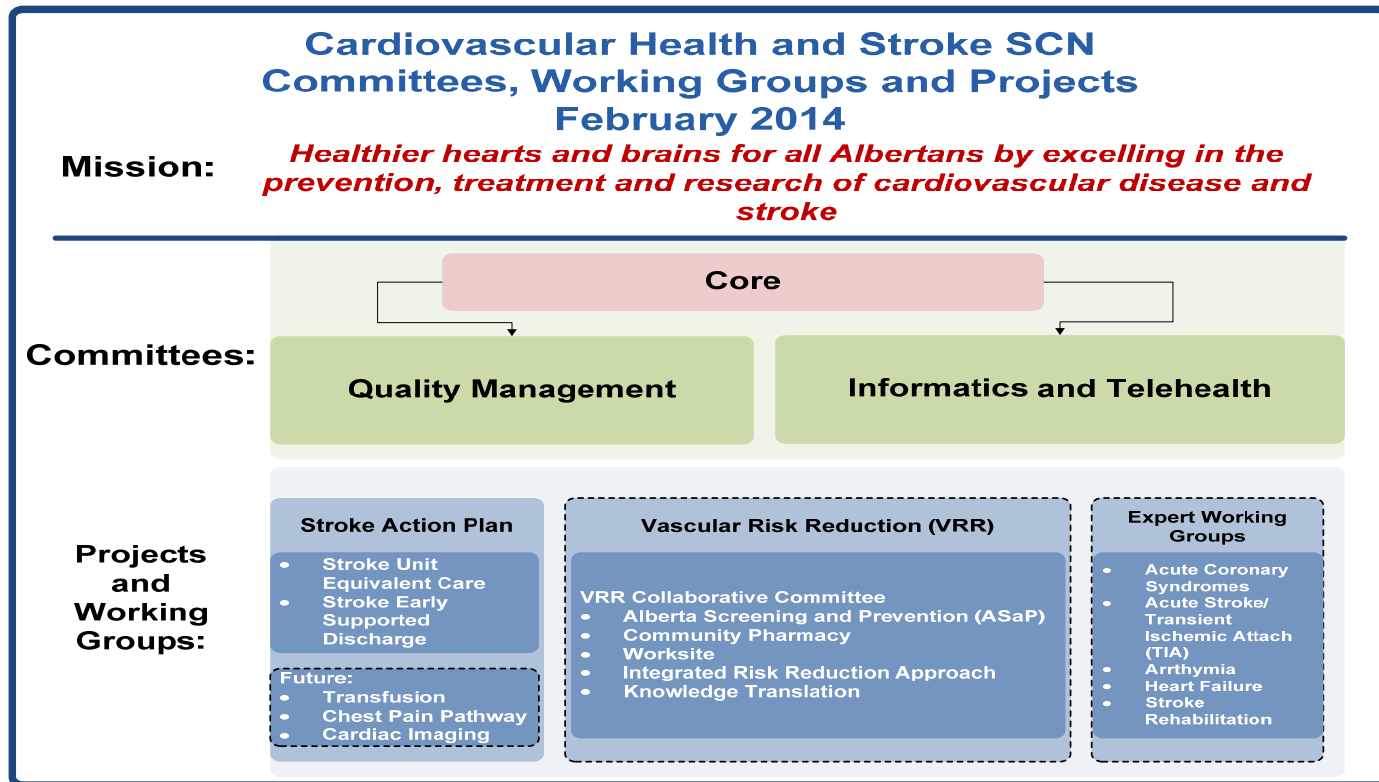


Agnes Joyce,
Manager



Matthew McEwen,
Assistant Scientific Director

What Are We Doing Now?



Vascular Risk Reduction (VRR)

With support from the Cancer, Addiction & Mental Health and Obesity, Diabetes and Nutrition SCNs, VRR includes a series of project aimed at identifying and supporting people at risk of heart disease and stroke. This includes improved access to health screening and treatment in the community for patients with vascular disease, such as pharmacy and workplace screening, and the creation of integrated clinic model to streamline vascular clinic services. The adoption of national guidelines in Alberta around the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease will help meet the needs of both health practitioners as well as patients. Prevention is key and the long-term goal of the VRR program is to keep more Albertans healthier for longer by reducing the risks and helping patients manage vascular disease.

Stroke Action Plan (SAP)

SAP is an initiative which will improve the quality and availability of stroke care in rural Alberta. By creating standards of care for stroke patients in rural acute care units, SAP will put rural stroke care on equal footing with larger urban centres, including facilitating early discharge from hospital by delivering expert stroke rehabilitation in clients' homes. The project is estimated to increase the number of patients who receive stroke unit care by 1000 and those receiving intensive rehabilitation after discharge by 40 per cent.

Expert Working Groups

The Expert Working Groups will monitor system-level clinical, operational and safety activities within their areas of expertise and recommend quality improvement initiatives and projects to ensure consistent practice and care outcomes across Alberta. The Working Groups will:

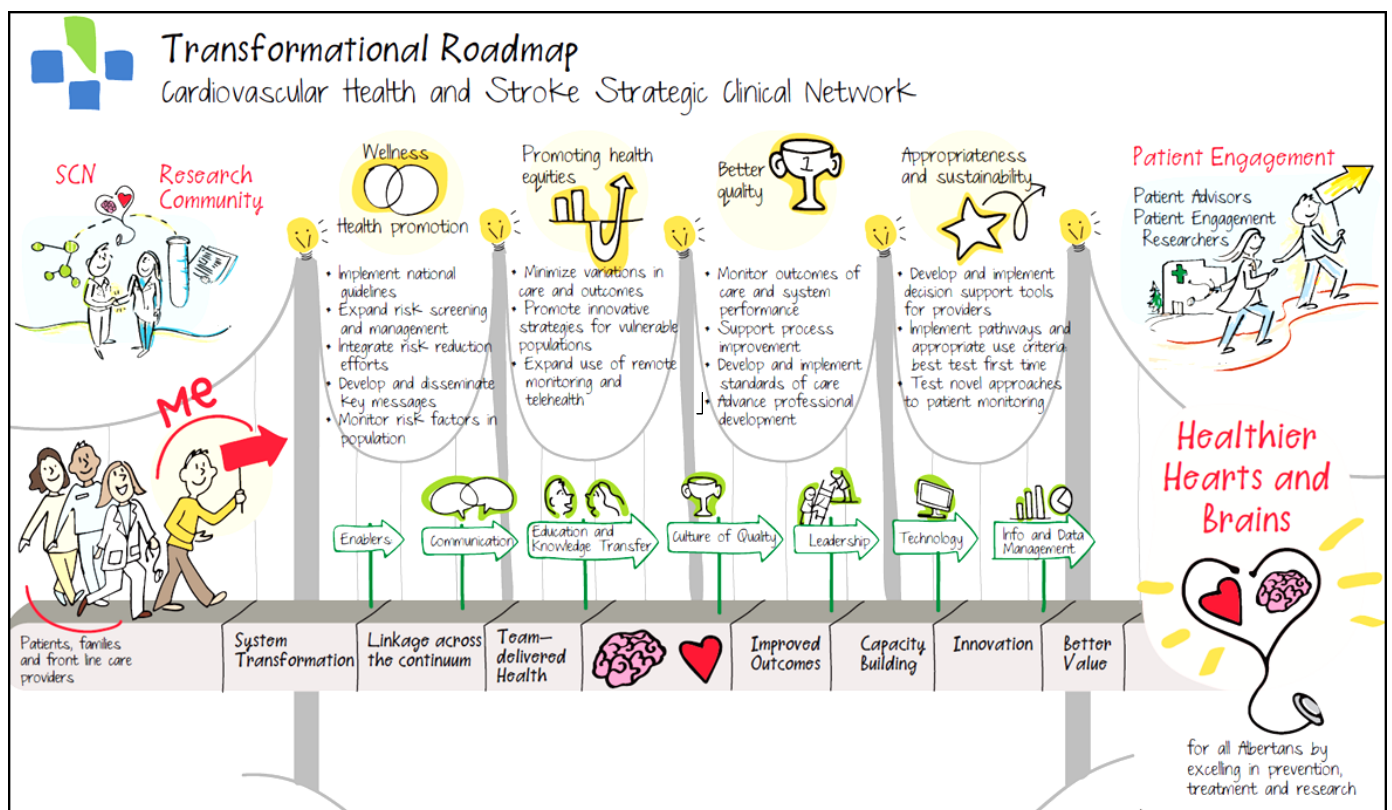
- Identify innovative opportunities to improve care outcomes, care processes, integration, collaboration, and novel models of care that align with the CVS SCN strategic plan.
- Develop and drive reassessment initiatives that serve to optimize clinical practice.
- Inform, monitor, and analyze key performance indicators and recommend and implement strategies to address issues, where feasible.
- Develop strategies to reduce variation in care with a goal towards best practice.
- Develop and implement clinical care pathways to streamline care and ensure appropriateness.

February is **Heart Month**—visit the **Heart & Stroke Foundation of Alberta website** for more information



What Are We Doing Now?

The CvHS Transformational Roadmap outlines the focused strategies and actions the SCN will undertake over the next 3 years to transform cardiovascular disease and stroke care in Alberta. This plan is the result of the collaborative effort of a broad network of stakeholders dedicated to improving health care outcomes for Albertans. The SCN strategic priorities and actions are summarized and presented below:



Do You Have a Good News Story?

In future editions, we would like to include real-life examples of good work from your areas. We welcome you to share these stories or pictures with us.

Contact us! For more Information:

In the coming months we will keep you posted on the work of our SCN. If you wish to learn more, or become more involved, please contact :

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NAME: Agnes.joyce@albertahealthservices.ca