**Alberta Coding Access Targets for Endoscopy**

Alberta Coding Access Targets for Endoscopy (ACATs-E) is a waitlist management system for endoscopy, based on high-quality data. The foundation of ACATs-E is a set of standardized, diagnosis-based codes designed by endoscopists provincially. The patient-focused and endoscopy-specific foundation of ACATs-E allows endoscopy providers to utilize a variety of reports and tools to aid in decision-making to support the goal of right patient, for the right procedure, at the right time.

## Who will use ACATs-E?

All endoscopy providers in Alberta will use ACATs-E. This includes:

- Family physicians, general surgeons, gastroenterologists, nurse practitioners and nurses that triage endoscopy referrals and/or perform endoscopy procedures.
- Medical Office Assistants, clerical and administrative staff that support endoscopy referral and scheduling processes.
- Operational leaders will use ACATs-E data to assist in endoscopy waitlist and resource discussions.
- Clinical leaders, such as provincial and zone endoscopy groups, will utilize ACATs-E data to understand provincial wait times and distribution of endoscopy procedures.

## What are the benefits of ACATs-E?

- **Enhanced patient care**: Patient care can be improved as endoscopy procedures are scheduled with reference to clinically appropriate timeframes.
- **Data**: ACATs-E will generate data on the volume of endoscopy procedures that are performed provincially, and the reasons for those endoscopies.
- **Transparency**: Provincial data on wait times and appropriateness will be available and accessible to all providers and operational leaders
- **Standardization**: ACATs-E creates a standardized method of gathering provincial endoscopy waitlist information.
- **Communication**: Conversations around endoscopy wait times will be rooted in standard language relating to acceptability
- **Reporting**: ACATs-E will provide an effective method to gather data on indications and acuity for endoscopy, and standardized approaches to patient scheduling, waitlist reporting and management. This data will allow us to generate reports on wait lists or the urgency level of those waiting for endoscopy

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### What will ACATs-E data be used for?

- ACATs-E provides data on the volume of endoscopy procedures that are performed provincially, and the reasons for those endoscopies.
- It will support appropriate prioritization of endoscopic procedures.
- ACATs-E data will be used to inform waitlist management and to aid in scheduling patients for the right endoscopy procedure at the right time.
- Endoscopy leaders can use the data to inform operational decisions.
- Accurate ACATs-E data can support pandemic recovery decisions.
- ACATs-E data can be used to compare wait lists for Albertans vs out of province patients.

### Will ACATs-E data be used to reduce staff or other resources?

- No, the intent of ACATs-E is to provide an accurate provincial waitlist management tool based on clinically appropriate timelines. It is not a tool to displace clinical or clerical staff.

### How will ACATs-E data be beneficial to rural sites?

- ACATs-E data can be used to understand the demand and capacity at a rural site. This information can inform decisions around access.
- Zone based aggregated data can be used to justify resource or funding requests.
- ACATs-E compares wait time data of rural patients who have their procedure in their local healthcare facility with those who travel elsewhere to have their procedure.
- ACATs-E provides wait time data for Albertans compared out of province patients.

### Will ACATs-E increase my workload?

- No, ACATs-E codes are built into the Lumens module within Connect Care and are part of the workflow required to book and treat a patient.
- As with all new programs, there will be a learning period. It is common to expect a temporary increase in time required to schedule endoscopy procedures. This should decrease as end-users become familiar and comfortable with using the waitlist management tool during scheduling procedures.
- The majority of Meditech sites are already using ACATs-E codes.

### Where can I find the ACATs-E Codes?

- ACATs-E codes are built into the Lumens module within Connect Care.
- ACATs-E codes can also be found on the [Digestive Health SCN website](#).

### What support is available?

- The ACATs-E team provides comprehensive training for all stakeholders.
- Ongoing support is provided by the ACATs-E team. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions to [ACATsEndoscopy@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:ACATsEndoscopy@albertahealthservices.ca)