



EMERGENCY

Contact

[Leadership team](#)

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Key Partners

Academic Departments of
Emergency Medicine

[Alberta First Nations
Information Governance
Centre](#)

[Alberta Medical Association](#)

[Emergency Medical
Services \(EMS\)](#)

Plus many AHS teams,
community programs &
services

Major initiatives and achievements, 2022-2023

Responding to ED pressures and long wait times

Over the past year, the Emergency SCN (ESCN) has been part of the implementation and evaluation of an initiative to add 127 FTE allied health (social workers, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists) and pharmacy resources to support patient flow in the 16 busiest emergency departments (EDs) across the province. Working alongside Clinical Operations, Health Professions Strategy & Practice, and Provincial Pharmacy, the ESCN led the creation and rollout of standardized workflows, resources, and an “ED 101” education package. Additional contributions include collaborating on change management, communications, and evaluation plans to support the successful transition and integration of these staff into the ED environment.



Sherri Kashuba, Senior Provincial Director for the ESCN, co-chaired a working group that included members of the ESCN leadership team and operational leaders, and contributed to identification of ED thresholds and development of a **Provincial Capacity Escalation Plan**, which outlines strategies to optimize emergency care delivery across sites or Zones if local EDs are over capacity.

These actions are part of AHS' efforts to reduce ED wait times, one of four priority areas. Data from November 2022 to March 2023 indicate that ED wait times in Alberta are coming down, with the total time spent in the ED to see a doctor decreasing by 17%, from 7.1 hours to 5.9 hours (includes time required for diagnostic investigations).³

Anti-racist and equity-oriented care in Alberta EDs: Research and strategic initiatives

The Emergency SCN has completed its **Transformational Roadmap Refresh** and added a fifth strategic direction related to equity, diversity and inclusion. In keeping with efforts to better reflect the patient population emergency care serves in Alberta, the ESCN Core Committee now includes three newly recruited Indigenous members.

The ESCN continues to partner with First Nations organizations to co-lead and co-present research on First Nations members' emergency care in Alberta. Analysis of provider interviews about deficits in First Nations emergency care has been [published](#) in BMC Health Services Research (June 2022). New funding has been received through a \$1.75M Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant for an [intervention research project with First Nations partners](#) to implement anti-racist and equity-oriented care in three Alberta EDs (one per Treaty area) over the next four years. Project co-leads are Lea Bill, Executive Director of the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre; Esther Tailfeathers, Family Physician and Member of the Blood Tribe, and Patrick McLane, Assistant Scientific Director of the ESCN (through Adjunct attachment to the University of Alberta).

Advancing knowledge and building capacity: Review of scientific funding and impact

The SCN completed a review of 2016-2021 results of its scientific funding competitions. Thirty-three [summer students](#) have been funded and have published 22 peer-reviewed articles. Nineteen [systematic and scoping review](#) teams were funded during this period, 15 of which have led to publications (18 publications total). This work is helping advance knowledge and generate evidence that can be used to inform decision-making in emergency medicine.

Improving information systems and access to physician-level data

The ESCN Senior Medical Director is facilitating the development of a Connect Care-based, confidential, self-reflection dashboard for individual emergency physicians to review their practice relative to their peers working in similar ED contexts. This dashboard leverages foundational work of the Calgary Zone Department of Emergency Medicine and similar work previously undertaken by Edmonton Zone emergency physician leaders. The project is a collaboration between AHS Emergency Medicine leaders, the ESCN, AHS Data and Analytics, and the Physician Learning Program.

³ Alberta Health Services. [Backgrounder: AHS seeing measurable improvements in priority areas](#). Action on Our Priorities. April 26, 2023.



Dr. Eddy Lang, Scientific Director, ESCN

Achievements of Dr. Eddy Lang recognized on a national level

Dr. Eddy Lang, long-time Scientific Director of the Emergency SCN, has been initiated into the **Canadian Academy of Health Sciences**. He was recognized for his over 340 career publications, promotion of implementation science in emergency medicine, and for leading the production of practice-changing clinical guidelines. Dr. Lang was also credentialed as a Canadian Certified Physician Executive.

“Eddy’s commitment to advancing research and innovation, capacity building and bringing evidence to practice coupled with his passion and enthusiasm make a valued leader in the ESCN and Alberta’s emergency care community.”

Sherri Kashuba, Senior Provincial Director for the ESCN

Impacts on health and care

Through its partnerships with key stakeholders and commitment to embed research into clinical practice, the ESCN is improving emergency care in Alberta. Over the past year, its work has included:

- ▶ Supporting AHS’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including provincial work on Post-COVID Conditions (‘Long COVID’)
- ▶ Addressing gaps in knowledge around health equity and emergency care
- ▶ Supporting patient and provider safety in emergency settings
- ▶ Supporting PaCER projects

Quality Improvement and Innovation Forum

The annual ESCN Quality Improvement and Innovation Forum fills a gap between local and national events. It is devoted to sharing methods and results of ED projects in Alberta among those working in emergency care. The event provides an opportunity for those pursuing quality improvement initiatives in emergency medicine to network with one another, share innovative work and experiences, and translate promising works to new settings. After providing an online forum throughout the pandemic, this year’s event was held in-person in Red Deer, Alberta, and live-streamed for those who wished to attend virtually. Nineteen oral presentations were delivered including a keynote address by Dr. Leigh Chapman, Chief Nursing Officer of Canada.

EMERGENCY		
Grants and Publications	Engagement	Outcomes and Impact
 <p>36 Peer-reviewed Publications</p>	 <p>29 Workshops & Presentations</p>	<p>Reduced Long-term Care to ED transfer rate associated with PRIHS IV project</p>
 <p>\$2.26M Research Grants</p>	 <p>3 new Core Committee members recruited, bringing Indigenous perspectives</p>	<p>~160 clinicians, ED managers, operations leaders, nurse educators, and others attended the 2022 ESCN Quality Improvement and Innovation Forum</p>

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