

MSK Transformation

July 2021 Update

The Musculoskeletal (MSK) Transformation Shoulder, Knee, and Spine Health Work Groups ([more info](#)) continue to work towards **assessment standards** and **outcome measurement**, providing input to inform the **business case** for **case rates**.

The Work Groups are engaging with several Alberta clinics to bring forward evidence demonstrating the value and quality of assessment models already in place in select Alberta clinics. As the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) is being formally established within Alberta's landscape, the work groups are also collaborating with the ASI towards accomplishing shared objectives that ensure Albertans receive timely access to appropriate care.

Shoulder

The Shoulder Work Group pushed through constraints and pressures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic to establish a shoulder assessment pathway. Consensus was accomplished through a Delphi consensus process. The shoulder assessment care path is now being validated through select Primary Care Networks, beginning with the St. Albert & Sturgeon PCN. The validation will take place through an iterative process whilst additional MSK assessment clinics are formally incorporated into the program.

Knee

Development of a knee assessment pathway is underway, and the group will also undertake a Delphi consensus process for provincial approval. There is a detailed analysis underway of the quality of care of three knee clinics who have a similar model of care. The Knee Group is also exploring expansion into formal provincial governance.

Spine

A current state review of low back pain practices is underway with a range of Alberta spine care providers. Models of care from other jurisdictions (Saskatchewan, Ontario) are also being examined as well as available grey literature for existing patient and provider educational materials. Development of a non-surgical pathway (which includes assessment) is underway and will conclude with a Delphi consensus process for provincial approval. Finally, the spine group is also exploring expansion into formal provincial governance.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is MSK Transformation?

MSK patients in Alberta may cross paths with a multitude of different service providers - primary care physicians, orthopedic specialists, sports medicine physicians, physiotherapists, chiropractors, pain management specialists, physiatrists, massage therapists and more.

Improved wayfinding, equitable access to care, and reducing variation in care and outcomes are within the scope of an initiative aiming to transform the model of MSK care in Alberta.

Why is MSK Transformation happening?

There are unnecessary queues and long wait lists to see providers with expertise in MSK conditions that result in patients not receiving a timely assessment. There is also a wide variety in the MSK expertise and assessment process, resulting in patients not necessarily receiving a consistent and comprehensive assessment.

Contact for More Information

For questions about the MSK Transformation initiative or if you are an MSK assessment provider keen to engage on current state practices in support of the business case, please contact us at bonejoint.scn@ahs.ca.