

Connections – A Pan-SCN Perspective

Article by Gloria Wilkinson, Pan-SCN Patient/Family Advisor

For about a year now, I have been attending meetings at all three “levels” within the Strategic Clinical Networks™ (SCNs). Not only for my own learning, but hopefully as a “connector of information”¹ – with the intention to demonstrate that SCNs indeed contribute to breaking down silos in health care.¹

“Because SCNs have positive input into the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Patient First agenda, I believe that we are the driving force! As the family advisor at all these levels, I hope to serve all of us by asking what the patient benefit in this system development is?”

Level 1: SCN Leadership Level	We hear the Alberta Health (AH) and AHS strategies that we will be required to implement. For example, currently, there is discussion regarding what to include in the Connect Care Pathway – the medical information inside a single electronic system that is under development, to replace the multitude of communication systems that don’t communicate with each other.
Level 2: SCN Team Level	Administration outlines ‘how-to’ implement the provincial directions. In that process we are fully involved through forums and focus groups.
Level 3: Patient Engagement Reference Group (PERG) Level	We carry out the integration of these directions into each SCN. The patient voice enters policy and procedure documents. It demonstrates the value of patient responsibility in their own wellness. It develops the “us/we” versus the “you/them” philosophy within SCN research. It demonstrates the need to answer why, in all research.

My future recommendations:

- Begin each PERG meeting with story-telling that fits the theme of the meeting. It keeps our own feet-on-the-ground.
- Begin each meeting with a description of the latest provincial directives and how that connects to our next steps.

¹ The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell. Significant role of connector in successful change.