

Patient Engagement Reference Group (PERG): Work in Progress

Article by: Garry Laxdal, Co-Chair of PERG, Patient Advisor, Surgery SCN
Tracy Wasylak, Co-Chair of PERG, Chief Program Officer, SCNs

Over the past year, our PERG team has been extremely busy co-developing a number of initiatives to improve patient and family engagement within the Strategic Clinical Networks™ (SCNs). Some of these initiatives include:

- **Promoting PERG inclusiveness** by changing our meetings to video conference to include sites in Edmonton and Calgary. This has provided an opportunity for our patient and family advisors in Edmonton and northern Alberta to attend PERG meetings closer to home. We have received positive feedback from attendees about the new format.
- **Co-designing ‘Engaging for Excellence: An SCN Best Practice Guide for Patient Engagement’**. This work is almost finished. When complete, this resource will support SCN staff, as it focuses on how to support interaction, meaningful engagement, and how to work with patient and family advisors in a collaborative manner.
- **Focusing PERG meetings on partnerships**. SCN staff liaisons joined us during our November 2017 PERG meeting and the SCN senior leadership team joined us during our recent March 2018 PERG meeting. These meetings were highly interactive and they fostered some informative discussions regarding how we can partner together to enhance patient and family engagement in the SCNs moving forward.
- **Involving SCN Advisors in AHS Connect Care Clinical Information System (CIS) Work** - We have a number of Patient and Family Advisors actively involved in work to design and build the new CIS. Together with AHS leaders and other stakeholders, they are partnering to build a world class CIS that other healthcare groups across North America will look up to as a model in patient engagement and universal functionality.