



2021-2022 Annual Impact Report | [Pan-SCN](#)

The SCNs, Provincial Programs and their Scientific Offices released their Annual Impact Report, titled "[Recovery, Renewal and Transformation](#)." The report highlights important collaborations and contributions, major achievements, and areas of impact over the past fiscal year.

Published: Effect of Clinical Decision Support on Prevention of Kidney Injury | [Pan-SCN](#)

A randomized clinical trial (September 2022) that investigated the "[Effect of Clinical Decision Support With Audit and Feedback on Prevention of Acute Kidney Injury in Patients Undergoing Coronary Angiography](#)" highlights an important Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) collaboration between Alberta Innovates and AHS. In addition to the notable clinical outcomes observed in this trial, the study design is a model for effective development, implementation and evaluation of clinical decision support focused on meaningful clinical outcomes.

Provincial Addiction and Mental Health (PAMH) integration | [Provincial Addiction & Mental Health \(PAMH\)](#)

The Provincial Addiction and Mental Health team is restructuring to better integrate applied research into the ongoing work of the portfolio. To connect with the new Applied Research and Innovation team, please reach out to Dr. Michele Dyson (Program Lead, Applied Research and Innovation at michele.dyson@ahs.ca), or Dr. Shelly Vik (Director, Knowledge, Evidence, and Innovation at shelly.vik@ahs.ca).

Poster Presentation: Exploring Older Adult Perspectives on Cancer Diagnosis | [Cancer \(CSCN\)](#)

Within the [Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Initiative](#), engagement with older adults, their family members and providers and leaders involved in their care provided insight into values and opportunities to strengthen support. A poster presented at the [International Psychosocial Oncology Conference](#) supported dissemination of this work. Insights gained are contributing to design and prototyping of a streamlined provincial cancer diagnosis program.

Future of Cancer Impact (FOCI) in Alberta | [Cancer \(CSCN\)](#)

The Cancer SCN organized a group of Albertans, clinical experts, and other key strategic partners to guide the development of the FOCI report. The report is a comprehensive exploration of cancer in Alberta which includes current and projected data, clinical and technical interpretations, and identification of key areas of concern to inform future priorities for cancer research and care. Link to [report summary](#); link to [full report](#).



DISER platform launch | [Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition \(DON SCN\)](#)

The DON SCN recently launched the [Diabetes Infrastructure for Surveillance, Evaluation, and Research \(DISER\)](#) platform that integrates individual-level records from clinical and administrative healthcare databases on patients with diabetes. It includes demographics, vital statistics, migration into or out of the province, prescription drugs, lab results, medical visits, emergency department use, hospitalizations, and more. Interested in using the data? Please contact don.scn@ahs.ca.

New protocol: Anti-obesity medication | [Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition \(DON SCN\)](#)

Sponsored by the DON SCN, the [Anti-Obesity Medication Protocol](#) became effective in November 2022 and provides support and direction to healthcare professionals working within AHS' bariatric specialty care clinics. The protocol aims to support providers when guiding adult patients on the adjustment of self-administered anti-obesity medications in the patient's home setting.

New e-learning module: *Opioid crisis clinician* | [Emergency SCN \(ESCN\)](#)

Opioid use disorder is a chronic, recurring illness/condition that is a major public health crisis in Alberta. How can you help as a health care provider? The [AHS PACES Learning Pathway](#) has CME accredited, accessible, self-paced addiction and mental health professional development training resources. One specific resource is the Emergency SCN's [Buprenorphine-Naloxone Initiation in the Emergency Department](#) simulation.

Know Your Data (KYD) | [Hospital Medicine Section - Medicine SCN \(MSCN\)](#)

The "Know Your Data" Physician Audit & Feedback pilot project has concluded. Approximately half of all eligible hospitalists and general internal medicine (GIM) physicians attended feedback discussions in 2021-22 which generated service-level, data-informed improvement ideas on how to address the current challenges in the healthcare system. The [KYD pilot summary report](#) is now available.

Integrating Prevention into Connect Care for Health (IPiC-Health): First Pan-SCN PRIHS project | [Provincial Population and Public Health \(PPPH\)](#)

A three-year study led by the PPPH, "Integrating Prevention into Connect Care for Health" (IPiC-Health) aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of providing screening, intervention, and referral tools within Connect Care to support patients in reducing the impact of using commercial tobacco, alcohol, and physical inactivity. Partners on this initiative include Provincial Addictions and Mental Health, along with SCNs – Bone & Joint Health, Medicine, Surgery, Cardiovascular Health and Stroke, Digestive Health, and Neurosciences, Rehabilitation & Vision. For more information contact: healthiertogether.healthservices@ahs.ca

New guidelines: *Driving after a seizure* | [Neurosciences, Rehabilitation & Vision \(NRV SCN\)](#)

Through support by the NRV SCN, [updated guidelines](#) for patients and providers around driving in Alberta following an adverse clinical event (possible first-time seizure) are now available.

Long COVID: *Patient/provider support* | [Neurosciences, Rehabilitation & Vision \(NRV SCN\)](#)

The NRV SCN continues to support AHS' long COVID response. Resources and supports are available for [patients](#) and [health professionals](#), along with information searchable by topic and symptom to help with recovery on [MyHealth.Alberta.ca](https://myhealth.alberta.ca).

New paper: *Participatory design* | [Primary Health Care Integration Network \(PHCIN\)](#)

Engaging more than 750 stakeholders in the [Home to Hospital to Home Transitions Guideline](#) was a challenge for the project team, but this participatory design approach was instrumental in encouraging system integration and supporting provincial implementation—and it's a strategy with international applications. For more information on integrating care from home to hospital to home, please read a [recent paper](#) outlining the participatory approach which was published in the International Journal of Integrated Care.

Published: Patients discharged following hospitalization for COVID-19 | [Primary Health Care Integration Network \(PHCIN\)](#)

Co-Authored by Joanne Ganton and Amberley Hubbard, with PHCIN, and Dr. Katharina Kovacs Burns, Senior Provincial Consultant, Data & Analytics, a [recently published article](#) in the Health Expectations journal shares Patients' experiences with COVID-19 through their recovery at home following hospital care transitions and discharge preparation.

New resource: Navigating your healthcare journey | [Primary Health Care Integration Network \(PHCIN\)](#)

The PHCIN Virtual Patient Engagement Network launched a new patient resource, [Navigating your healthcare journey: With the right information](#). This is one-stop-shop collection of resources and links was developed in collaboration with patient advisors and Health Link, to help people easily find healthcare and information they need – making these resources more accessible to more people.

New AHS Unit: Provincial Pathways Unit (PPU) | [Strategic Clinical Networks/ Primary Health Care Integration Network's \(PHCIN\)](#)

The recently established PPU will standardize the way pathways are built for primary care providers and patients, making it easier to access the right care as quickly as possible. The unit is also creating a single pathways webpage so providers can find evidence-informed guidance quickly. The PPU is a shared priority for SCNs and AHS Primary Health Care and is aligned with the Alberta Surgical Initiative. Developing a pathway? Have a pathway already developed? Connect with us at: albertapathways@ahs.ca

Grant Wrap Up Event with Cormac Russell - Virtual: (March 28) | [Connecting People & Community for Living Well](#)

Mark your calendar to hear keynote Cormac Russell speak of the important role of community in supporting wellbeing as we age. During this Zoom event, the accomplishments of the five rural community teams who participated in the Connecting People and Community for Living Well Health Canada-funded project will be celebrated. [Register now](#) for this free Zoom webinar or contact Kate.Hoang@ahs.ca for more information.

Patients Effectively Partnering with Providers Towards Active Listening and Kinship (PEP-TALK) | [Respiratory Section - Medicine SCN \(MSCN\)](#)

Led by Medicine SCN's Patient and Family Advisors, [PEP-TALK](#) aims to learn more about and develop successful strategies for better communication between patients and their healthcare providers. For more information on this project, contact medicinescn@ahs.ca.

New Committee: Provincial Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine | [Surgery \(SSCN\)](#)

In early 2022, the Surgery SCN launched a new committee to facilitate resolution, create connections and support joint decision making on issues affecting anesthesiology and pain medicine provincially. Co-Chaired by Drs. Dominic Cave and Gary Dobson, the committee brings together clinical and operational leaders to communicate, align and action the significant priorities of the specialty and inform the strategy of the SCN. For more information, contact surgery.scn@ahs.ca.

Safer airways in Alberta: Urgent Use Sugammadex Program | [Surgery \(SSCN\)](#)

Airway management is a high-risk procedure, where commonly referred to as intubation requiring a protected and reliable path for oxygenation. A new drug, Sugammadex sodium can reverse the neuromuscular paralysis induced by rocuronium during an urgent/emergent critical and difficult to manage airways event, allowing rapid return to spontaneous breathing. Implementation in OR, ED, ICU and PACU will be a phased approach at AHS and Covenant Sites over a two-year period.

Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program available in all Zones | [Surgery \(SSCN\)](#)

As part of the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI), the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program has launched province wide. FAST is a central access and intake program where referring providers can send orthopedic surgery and urology referrals to be directed to the next-available surgeon with the shortest waitlist, a specific clinic/surgeon, or to out of zone services. Since August 2022, more than 25,000 orthopedics and urology FAST referrals have been received. Gynecology, vascular, thoracic and general surgery are next to join the FAST program later this spring. For more information, go [online](#).