

STOP Fracture Abstract Update

The Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN), in partnership with the Bone & Joint Health SCN, the emerging Primary Health Care SCN, and Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute, has been granted funding through the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) competition by Alberta Innovates Health Solutions. The project leadership includes researchers from U of A and U of C, with co-principal investigator Dr. Heather Hanson, directly embedded in the Seniors Health SCN.

This three-year project will enhance the evaluation of three different secondary fracture prevention initiatives currently taking place across Alberta.

Project Description

Osteoporosis results in low trauma fragility fractures (broken bones), impairs quality of life, and can lead to loss of independence, and even death. It affects 250,000 Albertans, 25% of women and 12% of men over the age of 50. There are 22,000 osteoporotic fractures and 2,400 hip fractures each year in Alberta. We spend \$100M on osteoporosis, compared to \$75M for heart failure and \$60M for asthma. Without effective prevention, the rates of fractures, and the associated costs, will double by 2025. Despite safe and effective treatments and high quality guidelines, osteoporosis is poorly managed. Global data, including Alberta data, suggest that less than 20% of adults over the age of 50 are treated for osteoporosis after a fracture. This is a large and unnecessary "care gap".

Goal

To improve the quality of care for adults over the age of 50 with osteoporosis-related fractures by closing unnecessary care gaps using evidence-based interventions.

Optimal osteoporosis care addresses the 3i's of prevention:

- identify those at risk,
- investigate using bone density tests, and
- initiate treatment as needed.

Our multidisciplinary team is working with key stakeholders to evaluate current osteoporosis services offered within the province. We will use mixed methods (quantitative, qualitative, economic) to rigorously test and comprehensively evaluate 3 different Strategies Targeting Osteoporosis to Prevent recurrent fractures (STOP-Fracture).