

Provincial Rehabilitation Steering Committee

# Provincial Rehabilitation Strategic Plan 2022-2026:

The role of allied health in rehabilitation



Alberta Health  
Services

Allied Health Professions

# Introduction

Rehabilitation is a critical health strategy enabling participation in education, work, and society (World Health Organization, 2020). In recognition of the integral role rehabilitation provides within the health system, the Provincial Rehabilitation Steering Committee presents the Alberta Health Services (AHS) 2022-2026 Provincial Rehabilitation Strategic Plan.

## Purpose

The 2022-2026 Provincial Rehabilitation Strategic Plan reflects a commitment from AHS leadership to integrate and improve rehabilitation care across the patient journey and across the lifespan. A strategic plan continues to be essential to focus, align, coordinate and plan for the breadth of rehabilitation services required across AHS health sectors.

AHS is Canada's first and largest provincewide, fully integrated health system, responsible for delivering health services to more than 4.4 million people living in Alberta. Rehabilitation in AHS is uniquely placed to be a worldwide leader in the delivery of robust, innovative rehabilitation services which are fully integrated throughout the health continuum, and which yield many positive long-term outcomes for Albertans and the healthcare system.

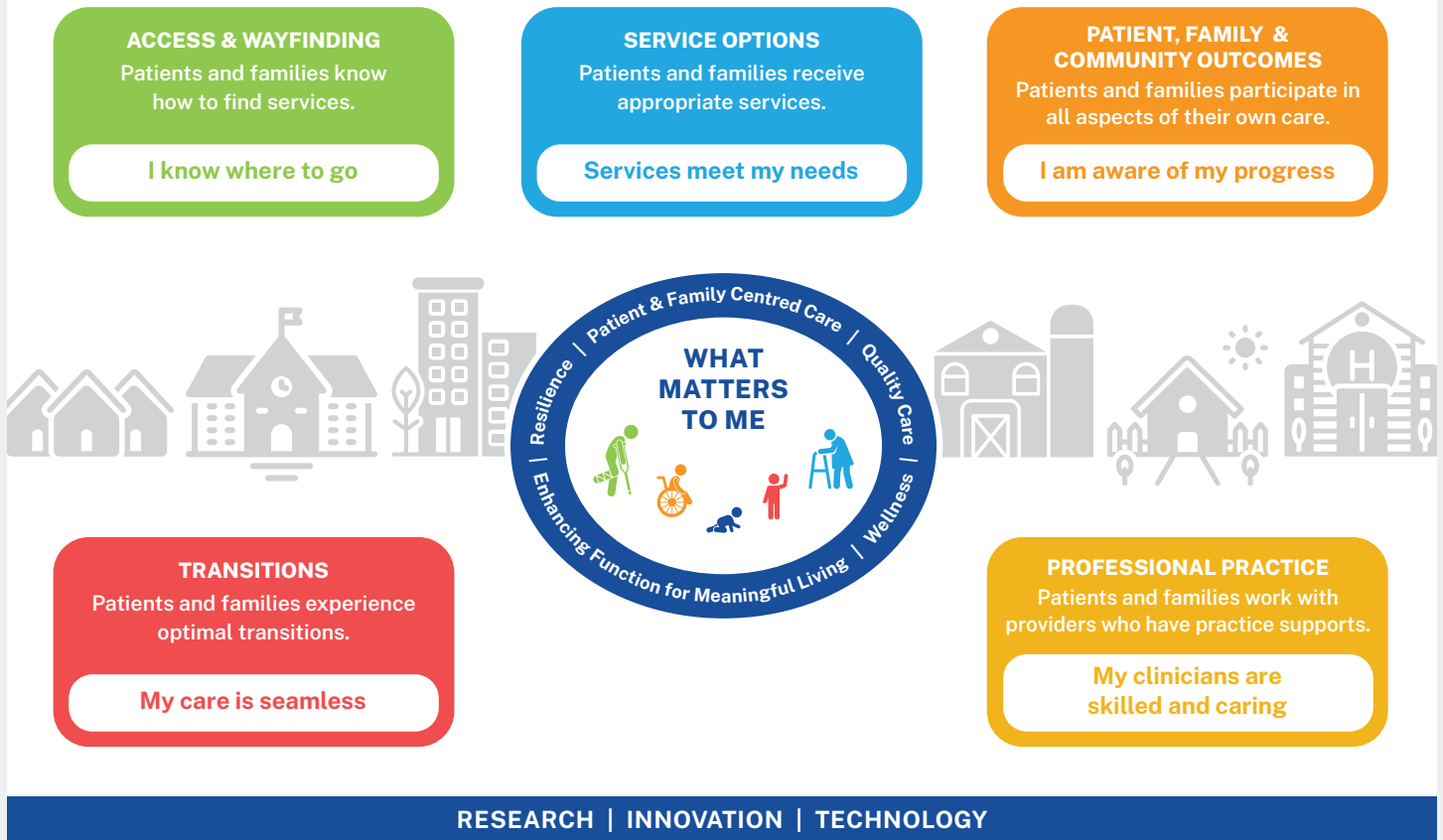
This strategic plan demonstrates rehabilitation's ongoing commitment to patient, family and community-centred care. It also demonstrates alignment with the overarching [AHS mission, vision, values, health plan, business plan](#) and 10-Year Vision. See Figure 1.

The Sixty-Sixth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA66.9 endorsed a coordinated global action plan by all stakeholders to “strengthen and extend rehabilitation, habilitation, assistive technology, assistance and support services, and community-based rehabilitation.”

World Health Organization,  
2015, 2017

FIGURE 1

## Rehabilitation Model of Care



## Aligning Rehabilitation Strategies with AHS 10-Year Vision

### AHS 10-Year Vision

- Enable Albertans to be full partners in their care
- Improved health & wellness of Albertans
- Reduce reliance on acute care to focus on community-based care
- Enhanced Integration of primary care
- Strong focus on community-based addiction and mental health recovery
- Fully leverage technology & innovation

### Rehabilitation Strategies

- Advocate for Rehabilitation as Essential Across the Continuum of Care
- Enhance System Foundations for Provincial Rehabilitation
- Advance Service Planning to Optimize Patient Outcomes & Experience

### Rehabilitation Objectives

- Prehabilitation for All
- Communication Access
- Pain Strategy
- Share Innovative Practices
- Structures to enhance communication, prioritization & standardization
- Connect Care Clinical Design
- Post-COVID Resources & Services
- Digital Capabilities
- Optimized Practice & Outcomes Implementation
- Pediatric & Adult Rehabilitation Services
- Co-Design with Client & Family Advisors
- Measure Impact
- Standardized Services & Approaches
- Models of Care, including Virtual Care

# Background

The current rehabilitation strategic plan builds upon the accomplishments of the 2019-2022 plan and the inaugural plan from 2016-2019. In acknowledgement of the ongoing response required for the global COVID-19 pandemic and the fatigue of our workforce, the 2022-2026 Provincial Rehabilitation Strategic Plan continues the three overarching strategic goals from 2019-2022, while refreshing the objectives and actions within each.

This streamlined focus is based on engagement opportunities with operational and practice leaders from the five Zones in AHS, key strategic internal healthcare partners, client and family advisors and targeted external partners. See the Contributors section for a detailed list.

The 2022-2026 Rehabilitation Strategic Plan preserves the AHS rehabilitation foundation described in the [Rehabilitation Conceptual Framework](#). It also aligns with an environmental scan completed in 2022 of other AHS strategic plans, as well as national and international rehabilitation plans. Themes emerging from the environmental scan are indicated in Figure 2.

## Environmental Scan Themes

- Access to Rehabilitation
- Appropriate Care
- Community
- Comprehensive Care Models
- Culture
- Diversity, Inclusion
- Enabling Technologies
- Equity
- Experience
- Governance
- Impact of Rehabilitation
- Invest in People
- Outcomes
- Partnerships
- Professional Excellence
- Quality
- Research
- Safety
- Sustainability
- Value of Rehabilitation

FIGURE 2

# Strategies and Key Objectives

The next section of this report describes the three strategies for the 2022-2026 AHS Rehabilitation Strategic Plan and objectives for each. The rehabilitation care continuum is expansive from acute care to outpatient, to home, community, and continuing care. Working collaboratively with health care partners such as patients/families, community agencies, primary care, addiction and mental health, and physician specialists is paramount.



## STRATEGY 1: Advocate for Rehabilitation as Essential across the Continuum of Care

- Socialize the vision of 'Prehabilitation for All' and advocate for funding to support a change in paradigm from 'waiting for surgery' to 'preparing for surgery' through pre-surgical resources and programs aimed at enhancing patients' pre-operative health to improve post-operative outcomes
- Expand the integration of Communication Access within the health system and partner with people who have speech, language and hearing difficulties to improve their healthcare experience and outcomes
- Collaborate with the Alberta Pain Strategy to leverage capacity and access in a coordinated approach to help Albertans manage pain across their lifespan
- Share innovative practices and communicate/publish internationally







## STRATEGY 2: Enhance System Foundations for Provincial Rehabilitation

- Engage stakeholders regarding provincial structures to enhance communication, prioritization and standardization province-wide
- Continue Connect Care province-wide electronic health record planning, clinical design, implementation and sustainability
- Expand post-COVID practice resources, education and service delivery
- Expand digital innovation and capabilities through the use of smart digital solutions to enable greater access to virtual care at universal, targeted and personalized service levels
- Lead the planning and implementation of Optimized Practice and Outcomes (OPO) to promote and enable practice optimization through service planning, practice guidance and staff development, taking into account patient and population needs, available evidence and resource constraints; includes linkage of population needs with core clinical activities, standardization of approaches/services and activity workload

### UNIVERSAL SERVICES

Designed to meet the needs of broad populations and available to all Albertans

### TARGETED SERVICES

Designed for groups of people with a common need

### PERSONALIZED SERVICES

Designed to meet the unique needs of a particular person



## STRATEGY 3: Advance Service Planning to Optimize Patient Outcomes and Experience



- Advance implementation of Pediatric Rehabilitation Services in community, outpatient and specialized rehabilitation settings
- Identify the priority services and related eligibility for adult patients, clients and residents to optimize access, experience and outcomes
- Collaborate and co-design with local and provincial rehabilitation client and family advisors
- Measure the impact of rehabilitation through e-surveys, evaluation processes, metrics and data engagement
- Implement Standardized Services and Approaches
- Advance, spread and scale models of care, including virtual care

# Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation

Existing committees have taken responsibility for developing action plans to advance the key objectives identified within each strategy. Confirmed leads, objectives, metrics and timelines will be available in a separate document for internal AHS use.

AHS Zone Operations and internal partners report on transformational impacts and outcomes on an annual basis and the Provincial Rehabilitation Steering Committee meets monthly to continue to advance the strategies and related actions.

It is acknowledged that the AHS Allied Health Workforce Plan is directly tied to the desired outcomes of the 2022-2026 Provincial Rehabilitation Strategic Plan. A commitment to collaboration and communication will ensure efficiency in actioning these parallel plans.

**“The AHS Allied Health Workforce Plan is directly tied to the desired outcomes of the 2022-2026 Provincial Rehabilitation Strategic Plan.”**

The Rehabilitation Strategic Plan reflects a commitment from leadership across the province and we are indebted to the many internal and external partners that have engaged in its development and implementation over the years.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Provincial Rehabilitation Steering Committee*



## Contact

This report has been prepared by the AHS Provincial Rehabilitation Steering Committee Secretariat in partnership with the members of the AHS Provincial Rehabilitation Steering Committee. For more information, please contact:

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## Contributors

The following groups have contributed to the development of the AHS 2022-2026 Provincial Rehabilitation Strategic Plan:

- AHS Allied Health Professional Practice & Education Team
- AHS Allied Health Rehabilitation Senior Leaders Council
- AHS Provincial Rehabilitation Client and Family Advisory
- AHS Provincial Rehabilitation Steering Committee
- AHS Strategic Clinical Networks™
- AHS Zones: North, Edmonton, Central, Calgary, South
- Rehabilitation External Stakeholder Advisory Committee

## References

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