

#AHS Accreditation Ready Accreditation

2021 INFORMATION FOR PHYSICIANS

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a component of quality assessment in which a healthcare organization compares its services with established performance standards. The accreditation process is the basic foundation for safe, quality patient care with emphasis on continuous quality improvement based on measurement and evaluation.

How important is accreditation to AHS?

The accreditation process enables objective third party assessment by peers from other provinces in key areas such as prevention of adverse events, quality improvement activities and client/family centered care practices.

Who accredits Alberta Health Services?

Accreditation Canada accredits the healthcare services AHS provides, while the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta accredits our diagnostic services.

The Accreditation Canada program consists of:

- Internal self-assessment against foundational standards for Infection Prevention & Control, Medication Management and Medical Device Reprocessing as well as clinical service standards. Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) prevent the most common adverse events that have significant human and financial cost.
- Accreditation Canada surveyors use TRACER methodology during twice yearly **unannounced** on site survey visits.
- Survey reports outlining successes and areas requiring action and follow-up reporting to Accreditation Canada.

What are the benefits to Physicians?

Accreditation is an opportunity :

- to demonstrate our commitment and accountability to quality health care, patient safety, and risk management
- to influence and improve health care quality and safety processes in AHS
- to strengthen and improve communication and collaboration among health care providers, patients/families and community partners.

How can Physicians become involved with accreditation?

- Be available to speak with Accreditation Canada surveyors and be open to their observation of care delivery during the on-site survey visit
- Make standards and ROPs part of everyday practice
- Participate in and organize improvement initiatives in client care, quality and safety
- Encourage audit activities and quality improvement measures for the standards and ROPs

Where can I get more information?

To find out more about Accreditation in AHS, please visit the Physician Learning website at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/7070.asp> or contact Dr. Brent Friesen at 403-943-1279.

How important are physicians to a successful accreditation?

- Physicians play an essential role
- Excellence in quality and patient safety practices requires physician leadership
- Excellence in patient care requires physician support to their teams.

What role can physicians play?

Physicians can champion accreditation activities by reflecting on how their own clinical practices align with accreditation standards of excellence and Required Organizational Practices (ROPs), encouraging their teams to do the same, and make improvements where needed.

Four ROPs are directly related to physician prescribing practice:

- Do Not Use Abbreviations
- Anti-Microbial Stewardship
- VTE Prophylaxis
- Medication Reconciliation