

Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network

What is the Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network (BJHSCN)?

The BJHSCN is Alberta's primary vehicle for provincial bone and joint strategies that aim to keep Albertans healthy, provide them with high-quality care when they are sick, ensure they have access to care when they need it, and improve their journey through the health system.

Why was the BJHSCN created?

Bone and joint problems are among the greatest challenges facing the health care system. In Alberta, someone enters a doctor's office every 60 seconds seeking treatment for a bone or joint problem. This rate of demand will only increase as Alberta's population grows, ages and lives longer. The BJHSCN will help manage and reduce the impact of bone and joint health issues on our system while improving patient care.

Who's involved?

The BJHSCN involves many stakeholders including the professionals who deliver care, the patients who receive it and the researchers who help us understand disease and how to best treat it.

What work is under way?

Musculoskeletal (MSK) Transformation - MSK care refers to any health care related to muscles and bones. The BJHSCN has brought together family doctors, specialists, patients, researchers, nurses, physiotherapists and other caregivers to find the best way to transform MSK care in Alberta. They are developing disease prevention programs and creating world-leading MSK care by working in teams comprised of various health care providers. As they look for ways to improve the whole system, teams are also tackling high-need areas such as joint replacement, soft tissue injury, rheumatoid arthritis, bone fracture and back pain. Work is also under way to centralize intake processes for all MSK care, working closely with primary care providers to streamline access. Two major MSK transformation programs are already in full flight.

- **Fragility and Stability** - as part of its battle against osteoporosis, the BJHSCN has developed and implemented the first comprehensive made-in-Alberta model of care for hip fracture, and a program to prevent fractures caused by osteoporosis. The model includes evidence-based practices and protocols for treating hip fracture, patient and family education, and new performance standards.
- **Hip and Knee Replacement Now** - In the third year of its five-year span, the program has established local quality improvement teams across Alberta to implement and consistently follow the practices and protocols of a proven care path for hip and knee replacements. The results have been improved patient outcomes, reduced hospital stay, and shorter wait times.

How to get involved

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Bone and Joint Health SCN, contact us at: bonejoint.scn@albertahealthservices.ca

Network Note

Approximately 10,000 hip and knee replacements are performed in Alberta every year.