

# Cardiovascular Health & Stroke Strategic Clinical Network™

## What is the Cardiovascular Health and Stroke Strategic Clinical Network™?

The Cardiovascular Health and Stroke Strategic Clinical Network (CvHS SCN) brings together a diverse group of Albertans with a common goal: healthier hearts and brains for all Albertans, by excelling in the prevention, treatment and research of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

## Why was the CvHS SCN created?

Heart disease and stroke share many of the same risk factors. Understanding how these conditions are connected and coordinating decision making based on this information allows the CvHS SCN to improve care for patients and all Albertans.

## Who's involved?

The CvHS SCN focuses on accessing supporting research, creating partnerships and engaging patients and families to find new solutions to improve patient care. Its core committee is made up of more than 50 members including clinicians, researchers, patients, families and decision makers.

The CvHS SCN has at least 10 sub-committees, expert working groups and project working groups that identify areas for improvement, develop innovative solutions and support system changes to improve the quality of cardiovascular and stroke care in Alberta.

## What work is under way?

These are some of current initiatives:

- **Heart Failure/Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (HF/COPD) Pathway** – This complex work is standardizing patient care to national and international best practice on a provincial scale to implement strategies in acute care and transitioning into community. The goals are to: improve symptoms and quality of life, reduce hospital visits, and reduce HF/COPD effects and deaths from HF/COPD.
- **Care Paths** – Care Paths are an advanced electronic form of clinical pathways serving as a clinical decision support tool allowing an integrated multidisciplinary approach through shared coordination of a patient's health care goals across all settings. Care Paths aid in clinical workflow with simple intuitive supports, accessed by Best Practice Advisories (BPAs), and consolidated Care Links in one place for easy access including admission order sets, daily assessments, labs, and discharge planning/transition to community.
- **Enhanced Lipid Reporting (ELR)** – This project aims to reduce the risk of Albertans developing cardiovascular disease with the spread and scale of our previously successful ELR pilot. This project will use a laboratory-based vascular risk score to indicate to family physicians the need to prescribe a cholesterol-reducing medication to reduce risk of cardiovascular disease.

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- ***Reducing Low Value Cardiovascular Investigations*** – The CvHS SCN and its partners are exploring low value cardiac investigations in Alberta. Lessons from reducing low value ECG testing will be transferrable to other cardiac investigations such as echocardiography, stress testing and nuclear imaging.

## How to get involved

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Cardiovascular Health and Stroke SCN, please contact us at: [cardiovascularhealthstroke.scn@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:cardiovascularhealthstroke.scn@albertahealthservices.ca)

