

## The Project

Alberta Innovates Health Solutions (AIHS) is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Albertans through investments in high quality, outcomes-based health research and innovation. As part of this commitment, AHS partnered with AIHS for the inaugural 2013 Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) awards. These awards were sought and awarded to Strategic Clinical Networks with proposals outlining relevant research with promise of measurable value and alignment with Alberta's Health Research and Innovation Strategy (AHRIS) and the AHS Health Plan.

The ESCN was honoured to accept an award and announce a new province wide collaborative project entitled "**Improving the Stewardship of Diagnostic Imaging Resources in Alberta Emergency Departments.**" The goal of this project is to improve the appropriateness of CT imaging in Alberta Emergency Departments by advancing awareness of, and adherence to, evidence based guidelines for CT imaging of patients with mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI) and suspected pulmonary embolism (PE). These two clinical scenarios have been selected because of evidence of variation in imaging practices across Alberta and the robust evidence base that exists to guide CT imaging Decisions.

## Communities of Practice (CoPs)

We plan to develop this project using a Community of Practice collaborative model, engaging both physician leaders and front line health care providers in an effort to tailor the project to best meet local needs. The project focuses on integrating evidence-based decision-support, patient information, and enhanced clinical informatics into local clinical practice.



### Vision:

*To build an inclusive network that supports the advancement of evidence informed emergency care for all Albertans.*

### Mission:

*The ESCN is committed to timely, equitable access to evidence informed emergency care for all patients and their families as an integral component of their continuum of care.*



## What do we expect to happen?

This project is expected to demonstrate shared value for all stakeholders, with significant potential benefits for the health care system, emergency physicians, radiologists, and most importantly, patients. By improving utilization of evidence-based guidelines, we hope to reduce variability in patient care and avoid unnecessary diagnostic imaging, thereby minimizing cost and radiation exposure and mitigating long-term risk of cancer. We anticipate more appropriate utilization of CT imaging to result in shorter emergency department length of stay, better patient flow and physician productivity. Furthermore, by collecting data on CT indications prior to ordering, we hope to gather more information for radiologists, improving the quality of clinical information available at the time of interpretation and reducing the burden of interpreting unnecessary studies in low risk patients.

We look forward to working with all of our stakeholders across the province to further develop and implement the project and welcome any questions or feedback that you may have. If you would like more information about this project, please contact our network or one of our project team physicians:

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