

The Project

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

The ESCN is proud to announce that it was the successful recipient of PRIHS funding for the research proposal titled, "**Development, Implementation and Evaluation of the Impact of a Choosing Wisely™ List of Tests and Interventions for Emergency Departments in Alberta**".

Choosing Wisely™ in the Emergency Department

Over 2 million visits are made to emergency departments in Alberta each year. Demand for services may exceed availability of resources resulting in delays in the health care system where access, appropriateness and timeliness of care may be compromised. The Choosing Wisely™ campaign, originally developed in the US, endeavours to identify tests and treatments in various realms of medical practice that are often overused or may have limited effectiveness thus leading to unnecessary health care spending. By reducing the use of these tests and treatments, the Choosing Wisely™ campaign hopes to reduce unnecessary spending and improve quality of patient care. The Choosing Wisely campaign started in Canada in 2013 and engaged societies/groups in providing Top-5 Lists of low-value tests and treatments. The emergency department represents one realm of medical practice where the Choosing Wisely™ campaign can be endorsed.



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?

In collaboration with key stakeholders in emergency medicine, the Alberta Medical Association and Choosing Wisely™ Canada, this three phase project will begin by developing the top 5 list of management decisions (diagnostic tests, procedures, imaging, etc) often performed in the emergency department that should be reduced or avoided due to over-use and lack of evidence for treatment and cost-effectiveness. The second phase will employ knowledge translation (KT) and change management (CM) strategies to encourage uptake and adoption of the top 5 recommendations. The final phase of this project will assess the impact of the KT and CM strategies in reducing unnecessary tests or treatments, thus improving emergency department efficiency as well as patient and economic outcomes.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact our network or members of the investigative team:

[Dr. Brian H Rowe, MD, MSc \(Principal Investigator\)](#)

Department of Emergency Medicine
Scientific Director, Emergency Strategic Clinical Network
University of Alberta & Alberta Health Services

[Dr. Maria Ospina, PhD](#)

Assistant Scientific Director, Respiratory Health Strategic Clinical Network
Alberta Health Services

[Cathy Pryce, RN, MN](#)

Senior Provincial Director, Emergency Strategic Clinical Network
Alberta Health Services

[Dr. Brian R Holroyd, MD, MBA](#)

Department of Emergency Medicine
Senior Medical Director, Emergency Strategic Clinical Network
University of Alberta & Alberta Health Services



NETWORK TEAM

Dr. Brian Holroyd
Senior Medical Director

Cathy Pryce
Senior Provincial Director

Dr. Brian Rowe
Scientific Director

Dr. Susan Jelinski
Assistant Scientific Director

Heather Hair
Executive Director

Vacant Network Manager

Monique Fernquist
Provincial Education Coordinator

Sophia Christoforakis
Knowledge Management (KM) Consultant

Andrea Gilbert
Administrator



For more information about the Emergency Strategic Clinical Network please contact us at:

Email: emergency.scn@albertahealthservices.ca

AHS External Website: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/9682.asp>

AHS Internal Website: <http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/1850.asp>