

START project results: **the filter**, winter 2019 edition

December 2018



The Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network™ (KH SCN) developed the Starting dialysis on Time, At Home, on the Right Therapy (START) Project in partnership with Alberta Kidney Care (AKC) to address the increasing demand for dialysis by (a) optimizing the use of PD therapy and (b) reducing the inappropriate, early initiation of dialysis in patients with end stage kidney disease. The project was conducted between October 1, 2016 and March 31, 2018 at chronic kidney disease clinics in Alberta [Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Edmonton (including University of Alberta Hospital, Grey Nuns Community Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital), and Red Deer].

START Project Results (October 2016—March 2018):

Over the last few months, we've been putting together the final START Report and site-specific reports which encompass data for the entire project period (October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2018). Site specific reports have been disseminated to the START teams and the final report can be accessed via the KH SCN's website <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/scn/ahs-scn-kh-start-final-report.pdf>

Thanks to the hard work of all of the teams, we are pleased to report that we have moved in a positive direction with respect to both of the mandatory metrics. During the project period the percentage of patients province-wide who received PD within the first 180 days of starting dialysis increased from 25% to 32%, surpassing our target. The proportion of outpatients in Alberta initiating dialysis earlier than guidelines suggest has decreased three percent from 16% to 13% provincially, and we are working toward the target level for the START Project.

Over the next year, START teams will continue to receive quality improvement reports and the KH SCN will work with Alberta Kidney Care in an effort to sustain and further improve peritoneal dialysis outcomes.



Featured: START Teams who attended the third Innovation Collaborative in Red Deer on March 22, 2018.

