

Alberta Kidney Times

Volume 1, Issue 1 - January 2017

Welcome to the first Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network's™ (KH SCN™) quarterly newsletter.

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Year in Review:

The KH SCN was launched on January 8, 2016 and is the twelfth SCN member to join the SCN family.

The KH SCN is a Province-wide network that brings together the experiences and expertise of healthcare professionals, researchers, government, communities, non-governmental organizations and patients and their families to address key gaps in care and outcomes related to kidney health across Alberta.

Over the last 12 months, in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, we have achieved a number of key accomplishments (see page 2).

Our Mission:

Optimal kidney health for all Albertans

Our Vision:

The Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network™ partners with Albertans to achieve excellence in sustainable quality kidney care & outcomes. Through innovation and use of best evidence, we will optimize prevention, early identification & appropriate management across all ages & stages of kidney health.

Our Goals:

- Reduce risk of kidney disease through early identification & management
- Improve management & outcomes in kidney disease
- Optimize treatment in advanced kidney failure



Key Accomplishments.....

January 2016

Core Committee and Leadership team created

February 2016

Mission and Vision established

March 2016

First meeting of the Living Donor Kidney Transplant Working Group

April 2016

Strategic Goals and Priorities established

Business case for START project submitted

June 2016

Provincial site visits and survey completed for Transformational Road Map (TRM)

Partnership for Research & Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) funding awarded to "Enhancing Clinical Decision Support for Prevention of Contrast-Induced Acute Kidney Injury in Cardiac Catheterization"

Quality Indicators and Measurement Working Group launched

START project funding awarded and project launched

July 2016

TRM content revised based on survey feedback

September 2016

Transformational Road Map finalized and approved

Chronic Kidney Management pathway launched and first learning collaborative held

October 2016

Indigenous Screening, Triage and Testing project being explored

December 2016

Transformational Road Map published and distributed

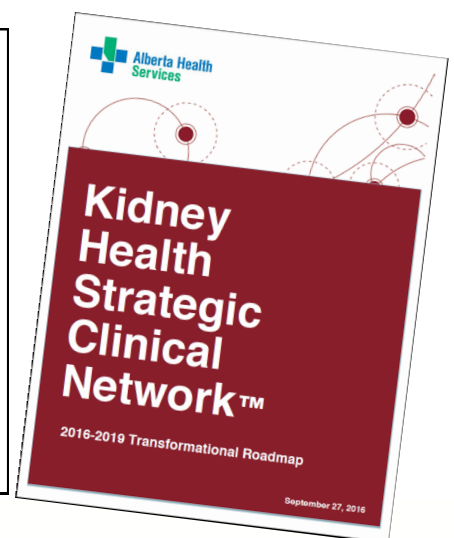
Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) and Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs) explored

Did you know...

We recently completed our Transformational Road Map (TRM). The TRM outlines the strategic plan for the KH SCN over the course of the next several years. This roadmap was completed over the course of the first eight months of 2016 and involved feedback from more than 360 people with an interest in achieving optimal kidney health for all Albertans.

A copy of the TRM is available on our website:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/scn/ahs-scn-kh-transformational-road-map.pdf>





Alberta Kidney Days

If you are a healthcare provider with an interest in the prevention and management of kidney disease, you are invited to join your colleagues in Calgary on March 10 & 11, 2017 for **Alberta Kidney Days**.

The theme of the symposium is **Excellence in Kidney Care—the Power of Partnerships**. This inaugural event will include plenary sessions plus workshop streams targeting the learning needs identified by front-line staff and specialists in nephrology and primary care. There will be an exciting lineup of speakers and opportunities to network with your colleagues from across the Province.

When: Friday and Saturday, March 10 – 11, 2017

Where: Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre
1316 - 33rd Street, NE
Calgary, Alberta

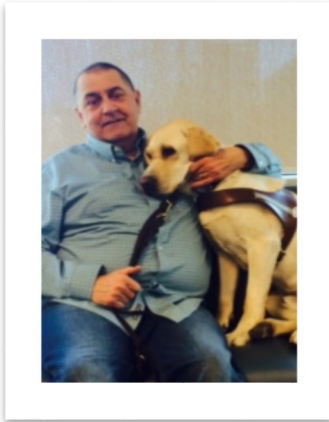
For more information or to register, go to: <http://www.cvent.com/d/dvqrbw>

Questions? Contact conference.planning@ahs.ca

This program is being hosted by a partnership of Alberta Health Services Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network, the Kidney Foundation of Canada (Alberta Branches) and the Southern and Northern Alberta Renal Programs.



Advisor's Voice



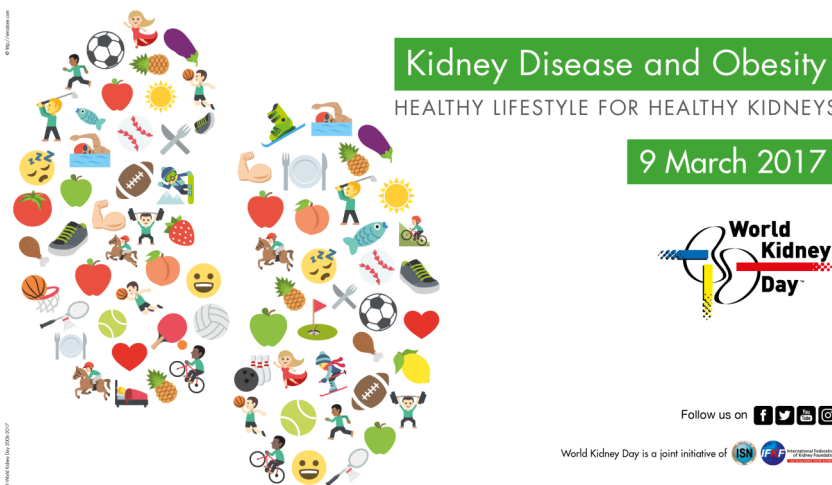
It is important to the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network that the patient voice is embedded in all the work we do so that our goals and priorities continue to reflect patients' input and their needs. **This section is dedicated to the voice of our patients and family advisors.**

And now a few words from Phil: "I am fortunate that my life was saved by a living donor (kidney) transplant and the outstanding medical team at the Southern Alberta Transplant Clinic. That was six years ago, and in reflecting on my journey, it could have been a better experience, so I have volunteered as a patient advisor to work on a team dedicated to increasing the number of living donors and the quality of the experience for both donors, recipients and their families."

Important Dates in 2017

March 9, 2017 is World Kidney Day

This year's theme is *Healthy Lifestyle for Healthy Kidneys*. Join the Kidney Foundation of Canada on March 9 at the Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Center when they present "Kidney Disease: Am I at Risk?", a presentation and panel discussion on kidney disease, its causes, treatments and what you can do to prevent kidney disease and manage your kidney health. Panelists will include a renal nurse educator and a nephrologist from the Southern Alberta Renal Program, along with a person living with kidney disease. An interactive question period will follow the presentation. For more information and to register for the event, visit the [event web site](#)



<http://www.worldkidneyday.org/resource/wkd-2017-campaign-image/>



Kidney Run & Walk: May 7, 2017

Did you know that one person who chooses to become an organ and tissue donor can save the lives of up to 80 other people? The Kidney Foundation is particularly alarmed by these statistics: over 4,500 Canadians are on the waiting list for an organ transplant and of those, over 80% are awaiting a kidney transplant. The kidney is one of very few organs that you can donate while you are alive and still keep on trucking. Did you know that living kidney donation is now more common than transplantation from deceased organ donors?

Together we can improve organ donor rates in Canada, giving thousands of Canadians a second chance at life. We invite you to be a part of the 14th Annual Kidney Walk & Run to help raise both funds & awareness for organ donation, patient services and research.

The Kidney Walk & Run is a fundraiser in which participants collect pledges while participating in an optional 5 K or 10 K Run or a 2 K Walk. This family-oriented event is geared towards people of all ages and all trails are wheelchair accessible.

We invite you to partner with The Kidney Foundation of Canada and help us reach our goal of \$100,000 for the Walk. It will cost our organization an estimated \$10,000 to accomplish this goal.

For more information: info@kidney.ab.ca

Kidney March 2017: September 8-10

Kidney March brings together kidney patients and their families, renal health professionals, organ donors and people who want to challenge themselves on a life-changing 100 kilometer, three-day march from Kananaskis Country to Calgary.

The only event of its kind in the world, Kidney March raises funds and awareness for life-changing research, organ donation and support programs for people with kidney disease.

Hundreds of people from across Canada come together each year to do the most they can possibly do by walking the farthest they have ever walked and raising the most money they've ever raised to truly make an impact. Kidney March 2016 was one of the best ever - this year's **300 participants raised over \$817,000!**

Kidney March is a transformational event that was created in 2010 to help support the one in 10 Canadians who have kidney disease. "No other walk in the world goes this far, for this long, for this cause, raising awareness and funds for kidney disease prevention, lifesaving research, patient support programs and organ donation initiatives," **says Joyce Van Deurzen, Executive Director of the Kidney Foundation of Canada, Southern Alberta Branch.**

Kidney March has raised over \$5 million dollars to support research, kidney health programs and organ donation initiatives.

Visit www.kidneymarch.ca



Highlights: Projects and Priority Initiatives

The Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network partners on and supports a number of Provincial projects and initiatives.

Acute Kidney Injury (AKI)

When kidney failure occurs rapidly, it is referred to as acute kidney injury (AKI). People with acute kidney injury may require urgent dialysis treatment for a period of time. Some patients who undergo cardiac catheterization are at risk for developing AKI due to the contrast dye used in the procedure. The Cardiovascular Heart and Stroke and the Kidney Health SCNs have partnered on a Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) 3 grant to develop clinical decision support tools and strategies to reduce the risk of contrast-induced AKI.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Pathway

<http://www.ckdpathway.ca/>

The CKD Clinical Pathway is a resource for primary care providers to aid in the diagnosis, medical management and referral of adults with CKD. It was developed by the Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration (ICDC) in collaboration with other key stakeholders. The KH SCN has partnered with the AKC and ICDC to help spread this initiative throughout the Province.



Conservative Kidney Management (CKM) Pathway

<http://ckmcare.com>

CKM is a treatment option that some end-stage kidney disease patients choose as an alternative to dialysis or transplant. In select patients, CKM can preserve function, maintain a better overall quality of life and reduce hospital admissions. Under a PRIHS 2 grant, a Provincial Conservative Kidney Management Clinical Pathway has been developed and is being piloted and evaluated in the Renal Insufficiency Clinics in Northern Alberta Renal Program.



The pathway focuses on living well without dialysis by providing information for patients and healthcare professionals on quality of life and symptoms management.



Living Donor Kidney Transplant

Kidney transplantation is considered the optimal therapy for eligible patients, as it improves both survival and quality of life. It is also the most cost-effective treatment for kidney failure in appropriate patients, reducing costs to the overall healthcare system and freeing up capacity for other life-saving treatments. Despite these benefits, the number of people receiving kidney transplants in Alberta is currently much lower than ideal.

By addressing currently known barriers to living kidney donation, the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network has formed a working group focused on increasing the rate of living donor kidney transplants in Alberta over the next several years. The goals of the working group are to overcome barriers to living donation by streamlining the living donor workup process, creating strategies to overcome financial burdens to living donation and improving education for donors and recipients.

Starting dialysis on Time At home on the Right Therapy

In partnership with the KH SCN and Alberta Kidney Care, the Northern and Southern Alberta



Renal Programs are participating in the “Starting dialysis on **Time At** home on the **Right Therapy**” (**START**) project”. The START project aims to address the increasing demand for dialysis, with the following specific goals:

- maximize the safe and effective use of peritoneal dialysis
- ensure patients are starting dialysis at the appropriate time
- improve patient outcomes and experiences
- reduce costs to the healthcare system.

Multiple sites across Alberta are participating in the START initiative, which runs from March 2016 to March 2018.

Did you know...

The delivery of kidney care in Alberta is coordinated through a unified body, Alberta Kidney Care, which is comprised of two operational units: AKC-North and AKC-South. Alberta Kidney Care and the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network work in collaboration to achieve goals and priorities that benefit Albertans with kidney disease.



Quality Indicators & Measurement (QIM)

In order to enable evidence-based decision-making, monitoring and evaluation of kidney care in Alberta, we need to collect reliable Provincial data and develop a standardized framework for reporting. The purpose of the QIM working group is to establish quality indicators and a reporting framework that aligns with the strategic priorities identified by the KH SCN Core Committee and Alberta Kidney Care.

Southern Alberta Renal Program's (SARP) Quality Improvement Committee

“Promoting Excellence Throughout the Continuum of Kidney Care”

SARP's QI Committee is led by Co-Chairs Dr. Jennifer MacRae, Dr. Chandra Thomas and Manager Marilyn Bartoszyk and is a partnership between SARP Operations, the Division of Nephrology, Alberta Kidney Care, the KH SCN, the Southern Alberta Transplant Program and Allied Health. The Committee works with patients, front-line staff and physicians to promote quality improvements and outcomes in patient care, through the review and evaluation of current and proposed QI initiatives. Over the past year, the Committee has performed an environmental scan to determine all of the initiatives currently underway within SARP and developed an intake process review and assessment criteria for new projects. They have also recently hired a new Quality Improvement Consultant to support the Committee. For more information on this committee, please contact us at kidneyhealth.scn@ahs.ca

A special thank you

The Kidney Health SCN would not have been possible without the efforts of many dedicated people on our Core Committee, within our working groups and through the hard work of members of our broader network.

A special thank you goes out to Dr. Braden Manns, our Interim Scientific Director. Dr. Manns has been instrumental in working with our partners and stakeholders to help establish many of the platforms that formed the basis for our strategic intent, our priorities and many of the projects that are now underway.

As he steps down from his role as Interim Scientific Director to focus on his national work with Canadians Seeking Solutions and Innovations to Overcome Chronic Kidney Disease (Can-SOLVE CKD), we wish him all the best and thank him for his dedication, passion and hard work. We look forward to continuing to work alongside Dr. Manns as he transitions to a role as a member of our Core Committee.

We want to hear from you!

Submit your ideas and feedback to:

kidneyhealth.scn@ahs.ca

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