

Alberta Kidney Times

Volume 1, Issue 2 - April 2017

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

In this edition:

| | |
|---|---|
| Featured Project..... | 2 |
| Alberta Kidney Days 2017..... | 3 |
| Chronic Kidney Disease Primary Care Resources..... | 4 |
| Advisor's Voice..... | 5 |
| Important Dates & Events..... | 6 |

We want to hear from you!

Submit your ideas and feedback to:
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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



Featured Kidney Health SCN Project

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

Starting dialysis on Time At home on the Right Therapy (START)

In partnership with the Kidney Health SCN and Alberta Kidney Care, the Northern and Southern Alberta Renal Programs are participating in the START project. The START project aims to address the increasing demand for dialysis through the following goals:

- maximizing the safe and effective use of peritoneal dialysis
- ensuring patients are starting dialysis at the appropriate time
- improving patient outcomes and experiences
- reducing costs to the healthcare system

Results from the START Project

Baseline data for the period October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, show:

- (1) The number of patients starting dialysis in hospital has been higher in Calgary (60%) than in Edmonton (28%)
- (2) The average kidney function (“eGFR”) of patients starting dialysis electively as outpatients was 8.2 ml/min/1.73m²
- (3) Nearly all patients who were eligible for peritoneal dialysis were offered the therapy and overall, 55% of eligible patients selected peritoneal dialysis, provincially.
- (4) There is wide variation in the rate of patients choosing peritoneal dialysis. Patients selecting peritoneal dialysis range from 40% to 67% across Alberta.
- (5) Eighty-six percent of patients who chose peritoneal dialysis received a peritoneal dialysis catheter within six months of starting dialysis.

During the first three months of the START Project, 30% of new patients who started dialysis in Alberta received peritoneal dialysis as their first treatment, and 34% received peritoneal dialysis within six months of starting therapy. Since the introduction of the START Project, there has been a nine percent increase in the number of new patients receiving peritoneal dialysis within six months of initiating dialysis when compared to historical data.

Next Steps

At the 6-month and 12-month marks, the project team will provide more detailed information about the processes that drive important patient and program outcomes. These detailed reports will be used to inform Innovation Collaborative Learning Sessions to be held in June 2017, November 2017 and March 2018. During these learning sessions, front-line staff and other key stakeholders will build on the detailed information about processes driving important patient and program outcomes, and develop, implement and monitor strategies for maximizing the safe and effective use of peritoneal dialysis, ensuring patients are starting dialysis at the appropriate time.

The full, downloadable report is now available from the Kidney Health SCN website — [START Project: Quarterly Report \(October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016\)](#) (pdf).





Alberta Kidney Days

Alberta Kidney Days was held at the Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre on March 10 & 11, 2017 in Calgary, Alberta. The theme of this year's inaugural symposium was

Excellence in Kidney Care — the Power of Partnerships

The event was a success, selling out within approximately two months of opening registration. Approximately 350 participants attended from nephrology, primary care, nursing and allied healthcare communities.

We'd like to sincerely thank our Planning Committee Members, Alberta Kidney Care, the Kidney Foundation of Canada, Southern Alberta Branch and all of our participants and sponsors.

Planning is underway for next year's event in Edmonton. Stay tuned for further details!

If you are interested in becoming involved as a member of the Planning Committee or if you would like to share your ideas for topics and/or events, please contact us at kidneyhealth.scn@ahs.ca

On March 9, 2017 in conjunction with World Kidney Day and as part of the annual Roy and Vi Baay Chair in kidney research's visiting lecture series, Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn sponsored a visit from Dr. Bruce Guthrie. Dr. Guthrie is a primary care physician and health services researcher from Scotland with expertise in multi-morbidity and strategies to enhance patient care in the community.

During his short visit to Alberta, Dr. Guthrie met with faculty, researchers and students and gave a number of lectures. We were honored to have Dr. Guthrie provide the keynote address at Alberta Kidney Days this year.



Sincere thanks to the Baay Chair family, Dr. Guthrie and Dr. Hemmelgarn for these enriching opportunities that enhance our knowledge. We look forward to next year's Roy and Vi Baay Chair guest lecturer.



CKD Resources Available for Primary Care

Netcare eReferral to obtain Nephrology Advice

This can be used any time you have a non-urgent question regarding your patient with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

[Click here](#) for FAQ and "How to Create a Request for Advice".

Diagnose and Manage CKD patients using www.ckdpathway.ca

The CKD clinical pathway will help you diagnose, medically manage and appropriately refer adults with CKD.

TELUS Health EMR new Outcomes Dashboard highlights CKD and CACP* eligible patients

CKD patients can be identified via text/ICD-9 searches, visit/03.04J billing history, and abnormal labs. EMR Dashboards also offer ongoing monitoring and recall support.

TELUS Health EMR CACP* templates are self-populating with clinical guidelines and resources for CKD patients

This point-of-care template integrates CKD-specific goals, medical management, referral criteria, and nutrition handouts.

* Comprehensive Annual Care Plan



Advisor's Voice

Please join us in welcoming our newest Advisor to the Kidney Health SCN family. Nancy Verdin is a retired occupational therapist who joined the Kidney Health SCN earlier this month.

"I have lived with kidney failure for 29 years. I have experienced PD (manually, the cyclor was only for pediatric patients at that time) when I started, kidney transplant, in-center and home hemodialysis. Being a part of the Kidney Health SCN allows me to share my experience and some of the ideas I have that could improve the experience for people who live with kidney failure."



President's Excellence Awards

Celebrating Outstanding Achievements

In April 2017, the **digital storytelling team**, in conjunction with the **Patient Engagement Team**, was named one of five finalists for the President's Award for Patient and Family Centred Care. One of our Kidney Health Advisors, Bob Stallworthy, is a member of this group. Bob's story, [Caught by Surprise](#), was one of seven digital stories written and produced in the summer of 2016.

These stories have been shared across Alberta Health Services in many different meetings, conferences and presentations. It has been a very valuable activity with a specific impact that the patient and family advisors can see. Congratulations to Bob and the entire digital storytelling team!

To view Bob's story, [Caught by Surprise](#), along with the six other Alberta Health Services patient advisors' digital stories please follow the link to the Alberta Health Services You Tube [Digital Story Playlist](#)

The **Modality Education team** has also been recognized as one of the five finalists for the [President's Excellence Quality Improvement Award](#). The goal of the modality education project was to develop, implement and evaluate provincial education that gives patients the information, skills and support in making decisions regarding dialysis options. Education champions from the Northern Alberta Renal Program (NARP) and the Southern Alberta Renal Program (SARP) worked together along with patients and families to produce a provincially consistent approach to introductory modality education. This approach includes an education pathway, content development, a video, and an evaluation plan. The content and video detail the different types of dialysis and their potential advantages and challenges, including patient testimonials that describe the impact of the different modalities on everyday life.

The rollout was completed in April 2016 in SARP and November 2016 in NARP. As of December 2016, 152 patients have been referred for group modality education, 119 of which have attended the introductory modality education. Congratulations to the entire Modality Education team!



Important Dates and events

JOIN A KIDNEY WALK

The Kidney Foundation of Canada

1 in 10 Canadians is Living with Kidney Disease **It's Time to Step Up**


What is a Kidney Walk?

This event is perfect for the whole family (including children and pets). It is designed for runners, walkers, strollers and participants with limited mobility. Sign up as an individual or form a team. Gather pledges to raise funds and kidney disease awareness. There will be entertainment and refreshments.

Why Walk? Kidney Walk, put on by The Kidney Foundation of Canada, raises awareness and funds for personal supports and lifesaving research around kidney disease and organ donation.

2017 Walks in Alberta

Edmonton • May 7
Lethbridge • May 13
Medicine Hat • June 10



Northern Alberta www.kidney.ca/nab/walk | Southern Alberta www.kidney.ca/sab/walk

Kidney Walks and Marches

May 7: Edmonton, The Kidney Foundation of Canada, Northern Alberta and the Territories Branch Kidney Walk at the ACT Centre in Rundle Park

For more information on this event or to register or sponsor a participant, visit the [Kidney Foundation of Canada, Northern Alberta and Territories Branch](http://www.kidney.ca) or call **1-800-461-9063**

May 13: Lethbridge, The Kidney Foundation of Canada, Southern Alberta Branch Kidney Walk at Henderson Lake, Horseshoe Pits

For more information on this event or to register or sponsor a participant, visit the [Kidney Foundation of Canada, Southern Alberta](http://www.kidney.ca) or call **1-866-956-2724**

June 10: Medicine Hat, The Kidney Foundation of Canada, Southern Alberta Branch Kidney Walk at Kin Coulee Park, Toboggan Shelter

For more information on this event or to register or sponsor a participant, visit the [Kidney Foundation of Canada, Southern Alberta](http://www.kidney.ca) or call **1-866-956-2724**

September 8-10: Kananaskis Country. The Kidney Foundation of Canada, Southern Alberta Branch Kidney March 2017.

For more information on Kidney March 2017, visit the [Kidney March website](http://www.kidney.ca)

