



Strategic Clinical Network

Research Project

The Respiratory Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) has been successful in its application for funding through [The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System \(PRIHS\)](#) from Alberta Innovates Health Solutions.

Adaptation, Implementation and Assessment of a Post-discharge Care Pathway to Reduce Emergency Department Re-visits and Hospital Re-Admission rates for Patients with COPD is a three-year project (total funding over three years is \$750,000) that aims to implement and assess a post-discharge clinical pathway for Albertans with COPD to reduce future ED visits/hospital re-admissions and health services use.

Project Description

Adaptation, Implementation and Assessment of a Post-discharge Care Pathway to Reduce Emergency Department Re-visits and Hospital Re-Admission rates for Patients with COPD

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic progressive lung disease characterized by shortness of breath, activity limitation, and a predisposition to acute exacerbations resulting in significant emergency department visits and hospitalizations. COPD is the most common reason for preventable hospitalizations in Alberta, and re-hospitalizations occur in excess of other chronic diseases. A recent report estimated the total annual inpatient cost of COPD in Alberta at \$112 million.

This project aims to adapt, implement and assess a post-discharge clinical pathway for Albertans with COPD to facilitate transition of care back to the community, and help prevent repeat visits to the emergency department and re-hospitalizations. By adapting a discharge pathway in collaboration with clinicians, patients and families, we expect to engage relevant stakeholders in the creation of a pathway that can be implemented in the every-day health care activities, with minimal investment but great potential health outcome improvement.

Principal Investigators: Dr. Michael Stickland. Co-principal investigators are Dr. Richard Leigh and Dr. Brian Rowe.

Contact information: respiratory.scn@albertahealthservices.ca