

# Optimizing Oxygen in Acute Care Project

## What is this project about?

The provincial Optimizing Oxygen project is co-led by the [Respiratory Health Strategic Clinical Network \(RHSCN\)](#) and Health Professions Strategy & Practice (HPSP). Throughout early phases of this work, we seek to become mutually aware and knowledgeable about oxygen therapy within all ages (except NICU) and all acute care sites and settings.

Several sources (including the province-wide system for patient safety reporting) reveal an opportunity to reduce variance and improve both the safety and effectiveness of oxygen administration provincially. The RHSCN convened an Oxygen Summit to identify and understand the issues; health professionals concerned with oxygen therapy across the province were involved.

Findings from the Oxygen Summit include:

- Oxygen therapy is not always helpful and may be harmful in some cases
- There are many varying practices related to the use of oxygen therapy, across health care training and health care facilities
- Like many jurisdictions, Alberta is in a need of a culture shift – to think of oxygen therapy as medicine rather than simply a comfort measure

## What are we working towards?

- Reducing variance in the delivery of oxygen therapy
- Supporting the safest and most consistent care
- Improving patient experience



## How will we do it?

We're continuing to engage AHS clinicians to help build a provincial approach to oxygen therapy, including:

- Criteria for the application of oxygen therapy
- Guidance for who, when and how oxygen therapy is applied
- Assessment and weaning practices

For more information on this project, contact [respiratoryhealth.scn@ahs.ca](mailto:respiratoryhealth.scn@ahs.ca)

Last updated: October 2018