

# Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

## Stat Toxicology Testing Project

### The Goal

Qualitative Stat Toxicology testing within emergency departments varied across the province. Within some zones these tests were common practice when patients arrived in emergency.

The stat toxicology testing project helped reduce unnecessary testing in emergency department.

### The Process

The Emergency and Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Networks, along with Laboratory Services and Calgary Zone reviewed the benefits and limitations of the stat toxicology testing and analyzed data from across the province. This information was shared among clinicians for feedback and discussion.

Communication outlining the evidence and rationale for reducing these tests was provided to health care providers in both addiction and mental health and emergency department settings.

### The Outcome

The number of toxicology tests decreased by 96 per cent over a six month period in Calgary Zone. Through the reduction of toxicology testing patients are no longer subjected to unnecessary testing.

### The Team

The project is a partnership between the Laboratory Services Toxicology Network, Calgary Zone operations and the Addiction and Mental Health and Emergency Strategic Clinical Networks.

