

#AHS Accreditation Ready

Accreditation

2020 INFORMATION FOR PHYSICIANS

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a component of quality improvement in which a healthcare organization compares its services with established performance standards. Accreditation focuses on assessment of strategies of optimal and continuous quality improvement.

How important is accreditation to AHS?

Alberta Health has mandated Alberta Health Services to be accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation body.

Who accredits Alberta Health Services?

Alberta Health Services has entered into an agreement with Accreditation Canada to accredit healthcare services and with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta to accredit diagnostic services.

The Accreditation Canada program consists of:

- An internal self-assessment of services against nationally recognized standards and Required Organizational Practices (ROPs)
- An external review by Accreditation Canada surveyors, using an interactive Tracer methodology during twice yearly **unannounced** survey visits
- A report of the results of the survey, including successes and areas that require action and follow-up reporting

What are the benefits to Physicians?

Accreditation is an opportunity :

- to celebrate, influence and improve health care quality and safety processes in AHS
- to strengthen and improve communication and collaboration among AHS health care providers, patients and community partners, and
- to demonstrate our commitment and accountability to quality health care, patient safety, and risk management

How can Physicians become involved with accreditation?

- Be available to speak with Accreditation Canada surveyors and open to observation during the on-site survey visit
- Participate in and organize improvement initiatives in client care, quality and safety
- Encourage audit activities and quality improvement measures for the standards and ROPs
- Make standards and ROPs part of everyday practice

Where can I get more information?

To find out more about Accreditation in AHS, please visit the Physician Learning website at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/7070.asp> or contact Dr. Brent Friesen at 403-943-1279.

How important are physicians to a successful accreditation?

- Physicians play an essential role
- Excellence in practices requires physician leadership
- Excellence in practices requires physician support to their teams.

What role can physicians play?

Physicians can be champions by reflecting on how their own clinical practices align with accreditation standards of excellence and Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) and encourage their teams to make improvements where needed.

Be available to speak with Accreditation Canada surveyors and open to observation if approached during the fall 2020 survey visit.

Four ROPs are directly related to physician prescribing practice:

- Do Not Use Abbreviations
- Anti-Microbial Stewardship
- VTE Prophylaxis
- Medication Reconciliation