

Critical Care Strategic Clinical Network

What is the Critical Care Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)?

The Critical Care SCN is a community of health care providers and other stakeholders from across Alberta's critical care units. They are working together to develop and implement evidence-informed, team-delivered health improvement strategies across Alberta's critical care. We often refer to this group as the Critical Care Community of Caring.

Why was the Critical Care SCN created?

Critical care provides complex life support technologies (often in Intensive Care Units or ICUs) to critically ill patients with potentially reversible diseases. We are stronger working together as a Critical Care Network rather than as isolated critical care units, improving system access across the province and sharing resources and expertise to improve patient outcomes.

Who's involved?

The Alberta critical care community consists of 35 adult, cardiac, cardiovascular, paediatric and neonatal intensive care units operating over 700 beds in all five zones of Alberta Health Services.

What work is under way?

- **Orientation Program for Adult Critical Care in Alberta** - Whether in Medicine Hat or Grande Prairie, adult critical care nurses in Alberta will receive additional training before stepping foot into their local care units. This five-week program addresses everything from how to use the specialized ICU equipment to how to care for ventilated or intubated patients. New nurses work several clinical shifts with senior nurses to apply theory to practice.
- **Patient and Family Centered Care Toolkit** - We are partnering with Patient and Family Advisors to create a critical care specific philosophy, standards and toolkit in order to find out from patients and families what is important to them when experiencing critical care.
- **Delirium Assessment & Prevention Management Guideline** - This project is a way of standardizing the care for patients with delirium across Alberta. Having consistent guidelines for how to care for these patients is expected to decrease ICU and hospital stays by up to seven days and reduce the reliance on sedatives for this patient population.
- **Provincial Practice Guidelines for use of Inhaled Nitric Oxide (iNO) in critical care in Alberta** - Using Nitric Oxide therapy for critically ill patients in respiratory distress is being examined across Alberta. A Position Statement and Practice Guidelines will be developed to reduce the use of iNO where limited evidence exists regarding clinical effectiveness.

How to get involved

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Critical Care SCN please contact us at: criticalcare.scn@albertahealthservices.ca