



Strategic Clinical Network

Research Project

A new project lead by the Critical Care SCN with the support of the Cardiovascular Health and Stroke SCN and Seniors Health, have been successful in their application for funding through [The Partnership for Research and Innovation in Health System \(PRIHS\)](#) from Alberta Innovates Health Solutions.

Evaluating the Economic Impact and Quality of Care of the Smart-e-Pants Innovation for Pressure Ulcer Prevention is a three year project with \$750,000 of funding provided by PRIHS and \$300,000 of contributions from University of Alberta start-up company, Prev Biotech. The project will test if the Smart-e-Pants device can prevent pressure ulcers in patients in Alberta's hospitals.

Project Description

Smart-e-Pants

Pressure ulcers, also known as bed or pressure sores, are gaping wounds that break through the skin, fat and muscle, and are common in patients who are unable to move on their own. Pressure ulcers take many months to heal and more than 60,000 people die every year in the US from pressure ulcers. Pressure ulcers also cost Canada's health care systems more than \$3.3 billion annually.

Smart-e-Pants is a made-in-Alberta device which helps patients periodically flex their muscles, preventing pressure ulcers from forming when sitting or lying down for long periods of time. Through PRIHS funding, further research will determine whether Smart-e-Pants can improve outcomes for patients in Alberta's hospitals who are prone to pressure sores.

This information will help save Alberta's health care system large amounts of money and improve the quality of life for people who are at risk of developing pressure ulcers.