

Cardiovascular Health & Stroke Strategic Clinical Network

What is the Cardiovascular Health and Stroke Strategic Clinical Network?

The Cardiovascular Health and Stroke Strategic Clinical Network (CVS SCN) brings together a diverse group of Albertans with a common goal: healthier hearts and brains for all Albertans, by excelling in the prevention, treatment and research of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Why was the CVS SCN created?

Heart disease and stroke share many of the same risk factors. Understanding how these conditions are connected and coordinating decision making based on this information allows the CVS SCN to improve care for patients.

Who's involved?

The CVS SCN is focused on accessing supporting research, creating partnerships and engaging patients and families to find new solutions to improve patient care. The core CVS SCN committee is made up of more than 50 members including: clinicians, researchers, patients, families and decision makers.

The CVS SCN has at least 10 sub-committees, expert working groups and project working groups that identify areas for improvement, develop innovative solutions and support system changes to improve the quality of cardiovascular and stroke care in Alberta.

What work is under way?

- **Vascular Risk Reduction Program (VRR)** will help identify individuals at risk for vascular disease and better manage that risk by improved access to health screening and risk factor management in their communities, along with the adoption of national guidelines in Alberta around the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, known as C-CHANGE.
- **Stroke Action Plan** is improving the quality of and access to stroke care in rural and small urban stroke centres in Alberta, through strategies that include early discharge and in-home rehabilitation and the creation of standards for rural stroke units or stroke unit equivalent care.
- **Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) Admission Orders** are helping harmonize and enhance the care of patients admitted with acute coronary syndromes, based on best evidence and practice.

How to get involved

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Cardiovascular Health and Stroke SCN, please contact us at: cardiovascularhealthstroke.scn@albertahealthservices.ca

Network Note

CVS SCN's priorities for the next three years include:

- Enhanced prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke
- Better quality through better quality management
- Reducing inequities in care and outcomes
- Appropriateness and sustainability.