

Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network

What is the Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network (DON SCN)?

The DON SCN brings together a diverse group of clinicians and patient advisors from across the province, with a keen interest in improving and coordinating care across these three important and inter-connected areas of health.

Why was the DON SCN created?

The incidence of diabetes and obesity in Alberta continues to grow at alarming rates. Good nutrition coupled with physical activity can help prevent and manage obesity, diabetes, and other chronic conditions. The DON SCN was created to understand the connections between these areas and help reduce the rates of diabetes and obesity by improving the quality of care we deliver, making sure it's available to all Albertans and creating solutions that can be successful within our health system.

Who's involved?

The DON SCN has a broad reach, connecting clinicians, researchers, patients, families and decision makers from across the province. A Core Committee of approximately 25 members are involved in the DON SCN on an ongoing basis, but each project engages many other experts. All Albertans are encouraged to become involved in this work to share their perspective and expertise.

What work is under way?

- **Diabetes Foot Care Clinical Pathway**-will help providers identify foot problems and facilitate early intervention. This will help prevent foot ulcers and reduce lower leg amputations.
- **Diabetes Inpatient Management**-improving and standardizing diabetes management in hospitals across Alberta, to support patients to achieve their recommended blood sugar targets of 5-10mmol/L.
 - ❖ Implementation of Basal Bolus Insulin Therapy in favor of subcutaneous sliding scale insulin
 - ❖ Glycemic Management Policy and procedures for early recognition and treatment of hyper and hypoglycemia
 - ❖ Safe Management of Insulin Pump Therapy
 - ❖ Perioperative Guidelines for patients with diabetes
- **Diabetes Infrastructure for Surveillance, Evaluation and Research (DISER) Project**-creating an Alberta-wide repository for diabetes related data, opening new roads for research and diabetes improved care.
- **Obesity Management**-looking at enhancing care in the community for people who have been diagnosed with obesity.
- **Bariatric Friendly Hospital**-developing standards for patients with bariatric care needs in Alberta hospitals. These standards will support health care providers to become more knowledgeable about obesity and its impact on quality care, develop competencies in the areas of safe patient handling, and work effectively and compassionately with patients with obesity.
- **Malnutrition in the Community**-working in collaboration with Nutrition Services to better understand the causes and effective treatments for malnutrition in seniors that live in the community.
- **Research & Innovation**-providing funding opportunities for our research community and building capacity for innovation and research through new partnerships with Alberta Innovates, industry, universities, Alberta Health, and AHS.

How to get involved

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition SCN contact us at: diabetesobesitynutrition.scn@ahs.ca.

Network Note

An estimated 7.5% of Albertans have diabetes, and 60% of adult Albertans are overweight or have obesity.