



Strategic Clinical Network

Research Project

The Kidney Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) has been successful in its application for funding through [The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System \(PRIHS\)](#) from Alberta Innovates Health Solutions.

The **Development, Implementation and Evaluation of a Provincial Kidney Conservative Care Clinical Pathway** is a 3 year proposal that will provide sustainable, high-quality, evidence-based care for patients unlikely to benefit from dialysis in a coordinated, standardized and equitable manner across Alberta.

Project Description

Development, Implementation and Evaluation of a Provincial Kidney Conservative Care Clinical Pathway

Albertans over the age of 75 are the fastest growing segment of the province experiencing chronic kidney disease, and while they make up 15 per cent of those on dialysis, for some elderly patients dialysis provides no benefit. These patients are often frail, and experience functional decline and cognitive impairment after starting dialysis. They experience a poor quality of life and high rates of hospitalization, and often have to relocate to receive dialysis. Patients whose chronic kidney disease is managed conservatively (without dialysis) may live as long as patients who elect to start dialysis, while maintaining a better quality of life. The patients who choose not to dialyze have fewer hospital admissions, and can remain in their own communities.

Through the PRIHS funding, this research will bring about the development and implementation of a Conservative Kidney Management (CKM) pathway in multiple sites across Alberta. This will coordinate kidney care with relevant primary and palliative care services, enhancing quality of life for frail, elderly people who are unlikely to benefit from dialysis.

The implementation of a Conservative Kidney Management (CKM) pathway will serve as a model for pathway development for patients with other advanced chronic illnesses.