

Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

Hip Fracture Care (Fragility and Stability Program)

The Goal

As part of the larger Fragility and Stability program, the specific aim of this work is to improve care in hospital and in the community for the nearly 2,700 Albertans who suffer hip fractures caused by osteoporosis each year.



The Process

The program works to improve the quality of care for those who experience a hip fracture through standardized clinical pathways that put the patient's needs first.

The acute care hip fracture pathway is being used by providers across the province, improving care for patients and families as they move from having surgery to returning home. In hospital, standardized instructions for providers, assessment tools and patient education provide high quality, consistent patient care.

The program has also developed a restorative care pathway which will begin rolling out in the fall of 2015. This restorative care pathway looks at the care patients received after a hip fracture and expands services beyond the walls of the hospital to create a smoother journey back into the community.

The introduction of a Fracture Liaison Service will link hospitals and community primary care providers to ensure a smooth transition of care. This service began at one hospital in Edmonton June 1, 2015, with plans to expand to all Zones.

The Outcome

Since implementation of the acute care hip fracture pathway in 13 surgical sites across the province in 2011 there has been a 3 per cent decrease in the length of stay for patients with a hip fracture. Research has shown that improved patient function allows a greater proportion of patients to return to independent living.

Recent provincial data shows improvements in patient functioning:

- 85 per cent of patients were moving the day after surgery (up from 81 per cent the previous quarter)
- 71 per cent of patients were able to return to their previous living environment (up from 66 per cent the previous quarter)

The Team

This program is led by the Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network (BJH SCN) in collaboration with Zone operations teams.