

# Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

## Inhaled Nitric Oxide

### The Goal

Inhaled Nitric Oxide (iNO) therapy is a treatment for patients with extremely low blood oxygen levels or severe heart failure. Although there are more cost-effective alternatives for some patients, increased use of iNO has multiplied costs by 1,366 per cent since 2005.

In 2014/15, the iNO project created provincial standards to guide staff in appropriate use of iNO and alternatives such as Flolan®. This will ensure consistent care for patients across Alberta.

### The Process

In partnership with critical care leaders, the iNO project team implemented standards for iNO and Flolan® use in phases in Alberta. This allowed front-line staff to offer feedback throughout the process, while implementing provincial Standards of Practice (SOPs).

All SOPs consisted of algorithms for initiation and weaning, and order sets for clinicians to use at the bedside.

### The Outcome

The Standards of Practice have now been adopted at six major adult centers in the Edmonton and Calgary Zones. Implementation of the Standards at the University of Alberta and the Royal Alexandra Hospitals and Mazankowski Heart Institute in Edmonton, and at ICUs at Foothills Medical Centre and Peter Lougheed Centre, has resulted in significant reductions in iNO usage and nearly \$150,000 in cost savings.

### The Team

This project is led by the Critical Care Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) with the support of Zone operational teams.

