

Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

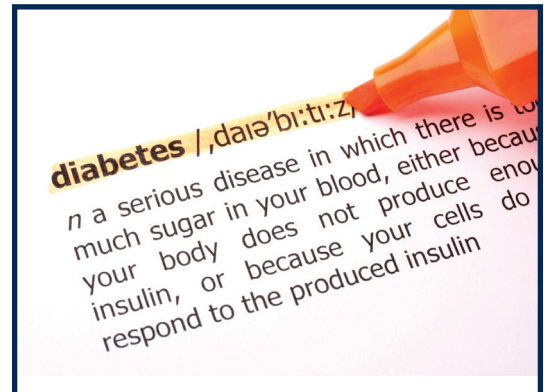
Insulin Pump Therapy

The Goal

Before the Alberta Government announced public funding for Insulin Pump Therapy in June 2013, the IPT Project was created to develop patient eligibility criteria, to identify the process for getting approved for IPT and to determine the clinical support needed for patients.

An insulin pump is an alternative to multiple daily insulin injections. About the size of a pager, the portable, programmable insulin pumps deliver fast-acting insulin continuously through a small tube that is inserted beneath the skin. Insulin pumps can offer more freedom for those living with Type 1 diabetes.

The IPT project is focused on ensuring safe and equitable access to those who will benefit most from this treatment.



The Process

Eligibility criteria has been developed to ensure approved patients have the knowledge and skill to effectively, safely and appropriately use IPT.

Experts at the University of Alberta are evaluating the effectiveness of the IPT Program based on patient outcomes and patient satisfaction information. The final report will be available Spring 2016 which will be used to inform Alberta Health policy.

The Outcome

In 2013-14 the IPT Program provided new insulin pumps to 530 patients with Type 1 Diabetes across Alberta. This is more than double the number of patients who started using IPT in the year prior to launch of the program.

Very few existing pump users were discontinued from IPT indicating that the vast majority met eligibility criteria.

The Team

This project is led by the Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition Strategic Clinic Network (DON SCN) in collaboration with Alberta Health, the University of Alberta Health Technology Assessment Unit and the 11 approved IPT diabetes clinics across the province.