

Surgery Strategic Clinical Network

What is the Surgery Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)?

The Surgery SCN is a province wide network of dedicated Albertans who are committed to improving the quality of surgical care in Alberta. The Surgery SCN is dedicated to delivering surgical care which is “Timely, Safer and Smarter,” for all Albertans.

Why was the Surgery SCN created?

Improved health for all Albertans depends on not only delivering timely, appropriate surgical care in all areas of the province, but also ensuring that patient outcomes are among the best in the world. In short, quality and safety are the primary goals of the Surgery SCN.

Who’s involved?

Using their real life experience and clinical expertise, the Surgery SCN is focused on accessing research, creating partnerships and engaging patients and families to find new solutions to improve patients’ health as well as their surgical experience. The Surgery SCN Core Committee is made up of more than 30 members, including clinicians, researchers, patients, family members and decision makers.

What work is under way?

- **aCATS (Adult Coding Access Targets for Surgery)** is a project aimed at measuring and improving surgical wait times in Alberta, by establishing standardized target times for scheduling surgical procedures, based on a patient’s condition and level of urgency.
- **National Surgery Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) and Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP)** are proven programs offered by the American College of Surgeons and support improved surgical and trauma care. TQIP will be rolled out at all Level 1 and 2 Trauma sites across Alberta while NSQIP will begin at five hospital sites – one in every Zone. These programs will use clinical data to understand and improve performance and will leverage the “Learning Collaborative” methodology to promote a cohesive provincial approach and to optimize program benefits system-wide.”
- **Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS)** is a program that strives to help patients get back to their normal self as quickly as possible. This is achieved through implementation of evidence-based clinical guidelines including changes to nutrition, earlier patient mobilization after surgery, and improvements in anaesthesia and pain management.

How to get involved

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Surgery SCN please contact us at:

surgery.scn@albertahealthservices.ca

Network Note:

More than 10,000 surgical errors are averted each year by the consistent use of the Safe Surgery Checklist.