Overview

- What are Strategic Clinical Networks™ (SCNs™)?
- How can SCNs™ facilitate clinical and health research in Alberta?

Something “different”:

- **GOAL**
  - For Alberta to have a sustainable health system that creates the healthiest population and best health outcomes in Canada

- To achieve that goal, we need an innovative way to re-think how we deliver services, plan healthcare, and collaborate across disciplines

Strategic Clinical Networks™
Strategic Clinical Networks™ (SCNs™)

• Collaborative teams with a provincial strategic mandate
• Focused on a population, clinical area, operational area
• Driven by clinical needs, based on best evidence
• Comprised of:
  – Front-line clinicians from all professions
  – Zone and Clinical Operations / Clinical Support Service leaders
  – Researchers
  – Content experts
  – Public / patients
  – Alberta Health
  – Other external partners

SCNs™ – Engines of Innovation

• Reshaping health care in Alberta by:
  – Focusing on what patients need
  – Supporting local examples of good care, then sharing it across the province (spread)
  – Using scientific evidence to guide care decisions
  – Shortening the lag in applying evidence into practice

Aims

• The SCNs™ aim to:
  – Achieve the best outcomes
  – Practice the highest quality of clinical care
  – Seek the greatest value from resources used
  – Engage clinicians and patients in all aspects of this work

Current and Developing SCNs™

1. Addiction and Mental Health
2. Bone & Joint Health
3. Cancer
4. Cardiovascular Health and Stroke
5. Critical Care
6. Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition
7. Digestive Health
8. Emergency
9. Kidney Health
10. Maternal Newborn Child & Youth
11. Kidney
12. Population, Public and Indigenous Health
13. Respiratory Health
14. Seniors
15. Surgery
16. Primary Health Care – 2017/18
17. Neurosciences & Vision – TBD

And more…
Scientific Offices of the SCNs™

- Scientific Director
- Assistant Scientific Director
- Network of Researchers
  - Clinician/scientists
  - Academic researchers
  - You?

How are SCNs™ facilitating research?

- Existing evidence to inform decisions/planning
- Generation of new knowledge/evidence
- Collaboration across stakeholder groups
- Push and pull of knowledge into context
- Streamlining idea-to-implementation
- Bringing all needed voices to the table to transform care
- Funding opportunities

Embedded Research Focus and Expertise

- SCNs™ can connect researchers and end users so they can work together to shape the research process
- Collaboration on:
  - Establishing the research agenda/priorities
  - Creating research questions
  - Completing the work
  - Disseminating results
- Goal: Produce research findings that are more likely relevant to and used by the end users
Benefits of SCN™ Collaboration

- Alignment with SCN™ platforms/priority areas
- Sponsorship in provincial funding competitions (e.g., PRIHS)
- Collaboration with researchers holding complementary expertise
- Bring together research groups to increase intra-provincial collaboration and competitiveness
- Early engagement with zone operations and administrators
- Learn from and spread to other SCN™/disciplines
- Opportunity to align, not compete, with other AHS-initiatives

SCN: Facilitation and Supports

- Liberating data
- Letters of Support
- Face-to-face time with operations to facilitate implementation
- Connecting with other expertise:
  - KT, Economic Evaluation, implementation science
- Direct path to some supports
- SPOR supports via SCNs

Collaborative Identification of Research Questions

- Diverse stakeholders allows for questions regarding best practice and current evidence to be asked
- Bring unique perspectives to help formulate a repository of community-identified priority areas for future research projects.
- Increasing importance of funding environment regarding co-developed ideas
- Funders are increasingly looking for evidence that patients and a broad range of inter-professional colleagues have been active in the development of the grant – bringing your ideas to the SCN community to foster buy-in and understanding of urgency could strengthen your funding chances!

“Push and Pull”

Outcome: major strides in translating knowledge into action
Streamlining the Path

- Offering way-finding and removing barriers

Having the Patient Voice at the Table

- Growing need to ensure patients are part of the dialogue
- Helping to ensure that patients and families are fully engaged in their healthcare experiences and health system

Questions

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