

PRIHS: Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System

FUNDING AWARDS



Surgery for Non-malignant Colorectal Polyps: Can we do better?

PROJECT FAST FACTS

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INSTITUTION: University of Calgary

PRIHS AWARD: \$632K

THE PROBLEM

After a stool test and a colonoscopy, many polyps are removed surgically, which means a lengthy hospital stay.

THE SOLUTION

Most polyps can now be removed during an outpatient colonoscopy.

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of death from cancer in Canada and Alberta. Most CRCs begins as pre-cancerous polyps (growths) in the large bowel. In Alberta, individuals are screened for CRC with a test that detects blood in the stool. When this test is positive, a colonoscopy is then performed to examine the inside surface of the bowel. Polyps are often found during this procedure and can be large or complex. These polyps are often removed surgically, which means a lengthy hospital stay. Removing polyps when they are benign and not yet cancerous can prevent CRC from developing. Most polyps can now be removed during an outpatient colonoscopy. The advantages are less pain and suffering, greater safety (including a lower chance of dying), and much lower costs.

Unnecessary surgery for these polyps continues to be common in Alberta. With the aim of understanding the reasons why so many patients with precancerous polyps are still treated with surgery, medical records of patients that had this surgery will be reviewed the and those involved will be interviewed: physicians, surgeons, hospital administrators, and patients.

Once the reasons are better understood, strategies to reduce unnecessary surgeries will be implemented and those involved will be encouraged to remove polyps during a colonoscopy procedure. A drop in the number of surgeries performed across the province is the aim. Reducing unnecessary surgery for precancerous polyps is better for patients and the healthcare system.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

- A drop in the number of surgeries performed across the province.

ABOUT PRIHS

The PRIHS program is designed to align the knowledge production efforts of researchers with the evidence needs of the health system. This is achieved by providing opportunities for researchers to propose solutions to priority health system challenges and access support from SCNs and other expertise within AHS to administer implementation studies. These implementation studies will help AHS identify and advance solutions that improve health care quality, health outcomes and value for Albertans.

VALUE & TERM

Combined pool of funds available: \$7 million. Individual award's period of support: up to three years.

FOCUS AREAS

PRIHS V provides a streamlined process for connecting Alberta's academic institutions with Strategic Clinical Networks™ (SCNs), patients, providers and leaders in AHS to:

- Translate research evidence into testable solutions that address priority health system challenges in Alberta as articulated by the SCNs; and
- Generate the evidence needed to identify and accelerate the spread and/or scale of solutions that foster more efficient and/or effective use of health care resources.

Learn how

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