

PRIHS: Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System

FUNDING AWARDS



Improving the delivery of acute dialysis to critically ill patients in Alberta – DIALYZING WISELY

PROJECT FAST FACTS

LEAD: Oleksa Rewa

INSTITUTION: University of Alberta

PRIHS AWARD: \$830K

THE PROBLEM

Currently in Alberta, we do not routinely evaluate against any standardized criteria when we initiate acute dialysis, or when we do, how well we perform this therapy in ICU settings. There are numerous evidence-based quality and performance indicators (KPIs) that can be implemented for this purpose; however, these have not been implemented to guide clinical practice. Moreover, several aspects of acute dialysis therapy are not standardized (e.g., prescription, monitoring, delivery) despite recommendations from clinical practice guidelines. These are clearly opportunities to improve the quality and safety of care, reduce unnecessary practice variation and address an important evidence-to-care gap on one of the key and most expensive life-support technologies commonly used in ICU. The costs to patients and the health system of inaction and maintaining the status quo are simply not acceptable. DIALYZING WISELY will address this care-gap by immediately implementing harmonized key performance indicators and best evidence-based practice standards to improve acute dialysis in Alberta.

THE SOLUTION

We will implement the DIALYZING WISELY pathway to all ICUs in Alberta that currently provide acute dialysis therapy. This innovative stakeholder-informed and evidence-based clinical pathway will standardize acute dialysis therapy across ICUs in Alberta and will leverage the comprehensive clinical information and informatics infrastructure. The pathway will target any and all healthcare professionals that provide and/or deliver any aspect of acute dialysis therapy. We will engage with each ICU providing acute dialysis therapy to identify inter-professional champions of the DIALYZING WISELY pathway. At minimum, this will include a physician, nurse/nurse educator and clinical operations lead. Our roll-out of the acute dialysis pathway will follow that of Connect Care implementation across our provincial ICUs.

Following the implementation of our DIALYZING WISELY pathway, we forecast that the integration of the new knowledge would avoid long-term chronic dialysis in 34 patients and unlock cost savings of nearly \$12 million over the course of this funding opportunity.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

- To improve the performance of acute RRT in our ICU/CICUs by aligning practices with evidence-based best practices.
- To decrease acute RRT program costs by implementing most recent best clinical evidence and practice guidelines.
- To decrease intakes into our provincial chronic RRT programs and associated healthcare systems costs while improving patient-centered outcomes.

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 VI 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

albertainnovates.ca