

PRIHS: Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System

FUNDING AWARD



Improving Acute Care for Long-Term Care Residents: A Better Way to Care for the Frail Elderly in Times of Medical Urgency

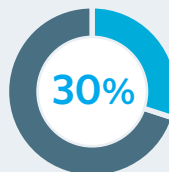
PROJECT FAST FACTS

LEADS: Heather Hair & Dr. Jayna Holroyd-Leduc
INSTITUTION: Alberta Health Services
PRIHS AWARD: \$1.2M

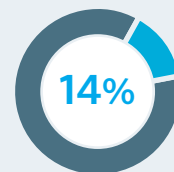


10,000+

Transfers from long-term care to Alberta emergency departments annually.



Per cent of transfers classified as non-urgent.



Per cent of transfers treatable with oral antibiotics.

GOAL:

Identify cases suitable to be treated by community paramedicine within long-term care to significantly reduce transfers to emergency departments.

There are over 10,000 transfers from long-term care (LTC) facilities to an Alberta emergency department annually. Although many transfers are appropriate, 30 per cent are non-urgent and 14 per cent might be treated with oral antibiotics, suggesting community management as a viable option.

Research has identified that a significant portion of LTC residents can be cared for on-site with appropriate supports, while transfer to the emergency department is associated with exposure to infections, falls, delirium and functional decline. When an emergency department visit is appropriate, poor communications between LTC and the hospital can lead to inefficient resource utilization, patient and family dissatisfaction and poor patient outcomes.

Our proposed solution is a centralized referral pathway supported by RAAPID (Referral, Access, Advice, Placement, Information & Destination). Assisted by INTERACT® (Interventions to Reduce Acute Care Transfers) tools, LTC providers and RAAPID would work together to identify cases suitable to be treated by community paramedicine within LTC. Studies have shown that the provision of community paramedicine within LTC can significantly reduce transfers to emergency departments. Appropriate transfers will be supported by RAAPID and be accompanied by a standardized transfer form, and patient's goals of care.



ABOUT PRIHS



WHAT IS PRIHS?

The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) is a partnership between Alberta Innovates and Alberta Health Services focused on supporting health research and innovation projects that will adopt and implement evidence to maintain or improve quality of patient care and services while substantially reducing costs in the healthcare system.

This partnered funding opportunity targets the implementation of high quality, evidence informed solutions to “Enhancing Care in the Community” to address performance gaps (“Focus Areas”) in the healthcare system that prevent optimal patient care, resource use, delivery and access to affordable and sustainable health services.



VALUE & TERM

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



FOCUS AREAS

- Solutions that help Albertans optimally manage their health conditions, maintain their independence and live well in their communities.
- Solutions that help Albertans avoid unnecessary Acute Care visits and admissions.

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