DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF A WEB-BASED CLINICAL PATHWAY FOR CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE IN PRIMARY CARE

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BACKGROUND: Identification and management of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is complex and the Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Clinical Practice Guideline (2012) provides direction to improve the care of patients with CKD. Primary care physicians play a key role in identification, management and referral of patients with CKD, and are an important target population for the CKD guidelines. Using the knowledge-to-action cycle framework, we identified a clinical pathway for CKD as a potential tool to increase uptake of the CKD guidelines in primary care.

We are developing an electronic CKD clinical pathway in close collaboration with key stakeholders, decision makers and knowledge users, including provincial renal programs, primary care physicians, and Chronic Disease Management programs. This CKD clinical pathway will be aimed at primary care physicians, and will incorporate evidence from the guidelines, including targeted testing, identification and management of CKD, and referral to specialist care. Working in collaboration with our knowledge user and decision maker partners we will implement the CKD clinical pathway across the province of Alberta and evaluate its clinical benefits in primary care.

OBJECTIVES: To determine (using an interrupted time series design) whether the CKD clinical pathway implemented as a web-based online tool in primary care improves guideline-concordant care of patients with CKD.

METHODS: The clinical pathway will be implemented as an online tool, and a multifaceted education strategy will coincide with the release. We will evaluate the impact of the clinical pathway using quantitative and qualitative methodology.

FUTURE WORK: We will use a cluster randomized trial design to determine whether a web-based CKD clinical pathway combined with an electronic reminder and clinical decision support system (personalized CKD care plan) improves guideline-concordant care of CKD patients,
compared to the web-based clinical pathway alone. The CKD clinical pathway will be available for use by interested groups.