

General Overview (one:carepath)



What is one:carepath?

One:carepath is a patient-first, disease-inclusive approach to *integrating supportive care* within *primary care* for patients with *advanced/decompensated/non-curative lung, heart, liver and kidney disease or solid organ cancers*. The focus is on optimizing patient's quality of life through careful attention to symptom management, determining patient's values and preferences for care, and timely transitions to a more conservative approach to care. Specifically, **one:carepath** aims to:

- Support patients and primary/community care providers
- Align patient's care with their values and preferences
- Optimize symptom & crisis management
- Work with specialty care to identify aggressive treatments that would provide limited benefit
- Help identify when patients are transitioning from disease modifying therapy to a more exclusive palliative care approach
- Avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and emergency department visits

What will one:carepath provide?

- **A website**, with parallel arms for healthcare providers & patients/families that includes: a suite of tools (see below) and resources leveraging disease specific AHS pathways content, where appropriate, accessible for use in primary care, and tailored to the complex patient to support them in their medical home. Content is focused predominantly at:
 - ✓ Communication around patient preferences and values and the development of an aligned **patient-centered care plan**
 - ✓ Symptom management
 - ✓ Managing advanced disease complications that add to symptom burden; this may include interventions to slow progression of disease
- A critical component of this work is the development of a **patient-centered Shared Care Plan template** for patients with complex health needs, that allows for iterative and dynamic changes as the patient navigates the health system to support:
 - ✓ **Patients and their families** at every point in their health care journey, regardless of where they touch the health system
 - ✓ **Providers**, including allied health providers, at every interaction, ensuring health information is transparent, secure and available to enhance and augment clinical decisions
 - ✓ **Alberta's Health System** by connecting and coordinating multidisciplinary teams who work together across settings and use evidence to strengthen patient-centered interactions

How is this work funded?

One:carepath is the outcome of a federal funding opportunity from the Canadian Institute of Health Research [CIHR] called - Rewarding Success, a Strategy for Patient Oriented Research, Innovative Clinical Trial (SPOR-iCT). Dr. Sara Davison and Dr. Brad Bahler were the successful applicants from Alberta, receiving \$2.4M in funding until 2025 to implement **one:carepath**. Alberta Health Services partnered with Alberta Innovates to match federal funding from CIHR, each contributing \$1.2M **of the \$4.8M** in

total funding. Over \$2M in cash and additional in-kind support will go directly to primary care. This is a performance-based funding model whereby successful outcomes could result in an additional match by AHS up to the original amount to scale and spread in primary care.

Why is this important and how does this fit with AHS's priorities?

One:carepath is working in parallel with two other initiatives to support integrative care across the province, i) A Disease-Inclusive Pathway for Transitions in Care (ADAPT), and ii) Home to Hospital to Home (H2H2H). Collectively, these initiatives aim to: improve continuity of care (relational, informational & management continuity); enhance specialty, acute and primary care coordination; and optimize supports to the patient's Medical Home (primary and community care providers, patients and family caregivers).

The suite of tools developed by these three initiatives, together, will align with and augment other important provincial work including the roll out of a Provincial EMR system (Connect Care) and community Information Integration & Central Patient Attachment Registry (CII/CPAR). Our goal is to leverage these initiatives as part of the foundational building blocks necessary to increase informational continuity for all Albertans.

While tailored for use in primary care, one:carepath content will align directly with AHS Pathway materials. Connect Care, and CII/CPAR are critical pieces of work that will help guide and enable one:carepath implementation.

What's next?

- ✓ **Pilot the care plan template** – the project is planning to partner with at least 5 primary care providers and their improvement teams to gain further feedback about feasibility and utility of the care plan template in a busy patient medical home (September 2022)
- ✓ **Recruitment to join implementation of care planning** (fall/winter 2022/23)
- ✓ **Implementation** (January/February 2023 – 2025)

For more information visit or to get involved, contact Kirby Scott at Kirby.scott@ahs.ca

Related Ethics Applications

World Café: Conservative Kidney Management and Integrated Supportive Care (Pro00092403)

One:carepath Co-Design: The Development, implementation and evaluation of an Innovative Integrated Supportive Care Pathway by Primary Care across Alberta (Pro00110585)

One:carepath Implementation: Implementation and Evaluation of an Innovative Integrated Conservative (Non-Dialysis) Kidney Management Pathway by Community Care Providers across Alberta, and the Development, Implementation and Evaluation of an Innovative Integrated Supportive Care Pathway by Primary Care across Alberta (Pro00122633)

One:carepath Evaluation: The Development, implementation and evaluation of an Innovative Integrated Supportive Care Pathway by Primary Care across Alberta (Pro00115941)