

PRIHS: Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System

FUNDING AWARDS



Eliminating hepatitis C in Alberta is feasible and cost-effective

PROJECT FAST FACTS

LEAD: Mark Swain

INSTITUTION: University of Calgary

PRIHS AWARD: \$986K

THE PROBLEM

Hepatitis C (HCV) is a virus that infects up to 1 in 100 Albertans leading to serious liver complications including cirrhosis and liver cancer. Available treatments cure over 95% of HCV-infected people using once-daily pill(s) with few side effects. However, equitable access to HCV cure is not available to many Albertans, as current specialist referral-based HCV care in Alberta disproportionately fails vulnerable patients, particularly Indigenous individuals, rural living people with limited specialist care access, and those from marginalized/stigmatized groups.

THE SOLUTION

To address inequities in the current specialist referral-based HCV care model in Alberta by shifting HCV testing/treatment programs into the community, to meet patients where they are at.

To do this we will adapt successful, pharmacist-led HCV care models from other jurisdictions to the Alberta context. In partnership with community-based organizations currently serving vulnerable patients, and individuals with lived experience, we will offer non-judgmental HCV testing/treatment within local communities. These newly formed partnerships will allow us to better locate, test and treat inequitably served groups. The proposed solution leverages the existing, unique Alberta pharmacist capacity to locally test and treat HCV where vulnerable patients live, and are already receiving supports and care. We will monitor/evaluate our HCV care program to assess efficiency, effectiveness, value for money, and to understand why, in whom, and under which conditions this novel HCV eradication strategy works. Our ultimate goal is to link together pre-existing capacity/resources, and processes using newly formed private partnerships, to secure program sustainability beyond the PRIHS lifespan.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

- Create an equitable, patient centric, clinical care pathway driven, HCV care model that effectively channels public, private and academic capacities to enable the shift of HCV care from specialist treatment centers to community-based pharmacies.
- Develop and strengthen linkages between community-based organizations and community pharmacists to offer a non-judgmental HCV testing and care program, and improve HCV cure rates within Indigenous and marginalized/stigmatized groups.
- Assess efficacy, efficiency and cost-effectiveness within the Alberta healthcare system while leveraging novel public partnerships to ensure long-term program sustainability.

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

albertainnovates.ca