Clinical Pathway Development: Alberta Health Services and Addiction & Mental Health

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Outline

Clinical Pathways:
- Definition
- Alberta Health Services (AHS) Priority
- AHS Toolkit
- Addiction & Mental Health (A&MH) Priority
- A&MH Clinical Network Priority
- Adult Depression Pathway
- Adolescent Depression Pathway
- Next Steps
Clinical Pathway

Definition:

- A Clinical Pathway is a multidisciplinary outline of anticipated care, placed in an appropriate timeframe, to help a patient with a specific condition or set of symptoms move progressively through a clinical experience to positive outcomes. (Middleton, Barnett, & Reeves, 2001)
Clinical Pathway

A Clinical Pathway is a set of tools and concepts, which includes guidelines, protocols and locally agreed upon evidence-informed, patient-centred, best practice, put into everyday use for the patient and family. The Clinical Pathway achieves the following: It puts…
Alberta Health Services & Clinical Pathways

- AHS has identified Clinical Pathways as a priority
- Quality & Healthcare Improvement (AHS) has identified Clinical Pathways as a priority in their 5 year plan
- Provincially, Clinical Networks have been formed to facilitate the development of clinical pathways
- A provincial toolkit, which standardizes the development, implementation and evaluation of clinical pathways, is complete and awaiting final approval
  - The Standards & Clinical Pathways team (A&MH) has made significant contributions to the creation of this toolkit
- A provincial roll-out plan for the toolkit is currently under development
## AHS Clinical Pathway Toolkit

### Section 1
**Overview document**
- Introduction to Clinical Pathways
- Definitions
- Patient engagement
- Stepped Care
- Variance (evaluation)
- Q&A document
- Other useful links

### Section 2
**Project Management documents**
- Materials to inform the project manager at each stage of the process
- Presentations for the project manager to deliver to the working group
- Handouts for the project manager to provide to the working group

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Addiction & Mental Health: Clinical Pathways

• A&MH Implementation Priorities
• A&MH Clinical Network priority
  ➢ “Develop and Implement Clinical Pathways”
Addiction & Mental Health: Clinical Network

The A&MH Clinical Network and its Standards & Clinical Pathways Working Group has responsibility for:

- Identification of priorities for clinical pathway development in A&MH
- Development, initial implementation and evaluation of clinical pathways in A&MH
- Projection of resources for clinical pathway development, including human, financial, information technology
- Development of a plan for training/education and support of clinicians in the development of clinical pathways throughout the province
Clinical Pathway for Adult Depression

Through the Clinical Network, and in collaboration with the Primary Care Networks in the Calgary zone, an adult depression pathway in primary care has been successfully developed, piloted and evaluated. Additionally:

• A project charter has been developed to spread this pathway to the majority of family physician offices throughout the Calgary zone

• A draft plan for provincial spread of this pathway has been developed
  – The South zone has agreed to initiate this provincial spread and utilize the clinical pathway toolkit
Clinical Pathway for Adolescent Depression

• Aligns with the priorities for clinical pathway development:
  – High volume, high need/risk, high cost, high value, identified gap or weakness
• Supported by and aligns with the priorities of A&MH and its Clinical Network:
  – ‘Develop and implement clinical pathways.’
• Resources, such as the toolkit, are already in place:
  – This toolkit identifies processes for development, implementation and evaluation
Next Steps

- Intent to develop a clinical pathway for adolescent depression discussed within AHS – A&MH
  - Identified as a priority pathway
- Reviewed at the last Clinical Network meeting
  - Received initial support for prioritization of this clinical pathway
- Intent and willingness to align with the Science-Policy-Practice Network to discuss and determine a plan, with key stakeholders, for the development of an ‘Integrated Intervention Pathway’ for adolescent depression