

BECOMING THE BEST: REPORT TO COMMUNITY 2011



Alberta Health Services is using the 5-Year Health Action Plan to focus on five areas to improve access and the patient experience:

Improve access and reduce wait times. Our goal is to provide patients with more timely access to services, including surgery, cancer therapy and Emergency Department treatment.

Provide more choice for continuing care. More than 1,100 new beds were added across the province last year; another 1,000 this year. We will add a total of 5,300 new beds between 2010 and 2015, and provide greater access to expanded home care services.

Strengthen primary health care. We will provide patients with convenient access to a doctor or health care team when first entering the health system.

Be healthy, stay healthy. We will give Albertans the support they need to be healthy, and to prevent chronic diseases, as they age.

Build one health system. We will have one, fully integrated system that meets the needs of all Albertans, today and in the future.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Performance results from the first quarter of this year show AHS is seeing success with renewed focus on patient care. For example:

- Once identified as ready to treat, 90 per cent of Albertans are receiving radiation therapy within 3.3 weeks. The target is four weeks.
- AHS is getting closer to meeting emergency department wait time targets. Currently, 46 per cent of emergency department patients who need a hospital bed are admitted within eight hours, a seven per cent improvement from the same time last year. The target is 60 per cent.
- AHS is getting closer to meeting cataract surgery wait time targets. Increased numbers of surgeries have decreased wait times to 41.7 weeks from 45.9 weeks one year ago. The target is 30 weeks.

AHS has set ambitious and aggressive targets, among the highest, if not the highest, in Canada in many cases. Setting the bar high is necessary for AHS to become the best-performing, publicly funded health system in Canada. All targets and updated measurements are available on the AHS website, www.albertahealthservices.ca, so the public can chart our progress and hold us accountable for meeting our targets.

FORT McMURRAY AND NORTH ZONE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- An expansion of the Intensive Care Unit at Northern Lights Regional Hospital is underway, and will improve and expand patient care.
- An expanded women's health program in Fort McMurray will provide additional programs and services for women and their families.
- Three new Primary Care Networks are now in development in northern Alberta.
- A new Walk On program is helping northern Albertans prevent, reduce and manage chronic diseases.
- A site has been selected for the Fort McMurray continuing care facility. With 100 new spaces, combined with expanded home care, this facility will meet the short- and long-range needs of the community.
- Influenza immunization clinics have been expanded throughout the north, including more clinics in Fort McMurray.
- This year marks 25 years of mobile mammography in Fort McMurray, and the cervical cancer screening program has been expanded.

AHS

TODAY AND TOMORROW

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER ALBERTA.

We need you, our partners, to accomplish the goal of becoming the best-performing, publicly funded health care system in Canada. We are listening. Share your health care ideas.

Send your comments to Becomingthebest@albertahealthservices.ca, or join the conversation [@AHS_NorthZone](https://twitter.com/AHS_NorthZone).

