

# Key Messages

## Why this initiative?

Tobacco dependence is the number one cause of preventable death in Alberta. Results from previous Toward Optimized Practice (TOP) programs suggest that implementing a process to address tobacco dependence in primary care is successful for physicians, clinics and primary care networks (PCNs).

## What is the initiative?

pcnACT is a customizable approach to addressing tobacco dependence in primary care by focusing on processes identified in an evidence-based algorithm.

## How will this occur?

TOP will offer training, tools and resources to identified facilitators within PCNs to support the screening and management of tobacco dependence. PCNs will then offer practice facilitation to primary care physicians and team members to support the development of customized processes within physician clinics.

## What does the initiative offer primary care physicians and team members?

- Support to develop customized processes within clinics to optimize screening and management of tobacco dependence using an evidence-based algorithm
- Opportunity to enhance the role of team members and electronic medical records (EMRs) to contribute towards identification of patients who may benefit from complex care planning
- Provision of improvement tools for primary care physicians, team members and clinics
- Support to develop “practical methods” that work within the time constraints of a busy practice
- Provision of confidential reports on tobacco dependence screening and management

## What does the initiative offer Primary Care Networks (PCNs)?

- Development of skills in practice facilitation that can be applied in other primary care projects
- Means to measure improvement on tobacco dependence screening and management and report in a standardized way across PCNs (suitable for demonstrating the aggregate benefit of these organizations as suggested by the Auditor General of Alberta)
- Support to maximize the investment in EMRs and patient panels
- Support to improve integration and effectiveness of all members of the primary care team
- Access to quality improvement resources through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement ([www.IHI.org](http://www.IHI.org))
- Opportunity for participants in the Alberta Screening and Prevention (ASaP) initiative to leverage their investment in improvement facilitator training and physician engagement in quality improvement

## What will be expected of participants?

### Primary care physicians and team members will:

- Develop, with support, sustainable processes for identifying their panel and tobacco users
- Provide the improvement facilitator access to conduct confidential chart reviews or panel based measurement of tobacco screening and management
- Work closely with an improvement facilitator through regular team meetings to implement changes over a six to eight week period

### Primary Care Networks will:

- Identify improvement facilitators who will be provided with resources and mentorship to support physicians and clinics implementing this program
- Coordinate and deliver, with support, physician recruitment events
- Support improvement facilitators with visible leadership, direction and vision for successful implementation of the program
- Participate in planning, implementation and feedback of emerging communities of practice for improvement facilitation and EMR use

## How will this benefit Albertans?

- Standardized screening and management of tobacco dependence will improve reliability of care
- Spontaneous quit rates will improve
- Successful quit attempts will increase

## What are the next steps?

- Primary care physicians, team members and PCNs are being contacted about the initiative
- Direct general inquiries regarding the initiative and expressions of interest to engage in this work to [top@topalbertadoctors.org](mailto:top@topalbertadoctors.org).
- Direct specific questions about the program to Arvelle Balon-Lyon (Assistant Program Director, TOP) at [arvelle.balon-lyon@topalbertadoctors.org](mailto:arvelle.balon-lyon@topalbertadoctors.org) or 403.360.4845.