

Between September 14 and November 2, 2018, [Provincial Clinical Teams](#) (PCTs) participated in planning meetings and workshops, applying their clinical expertise and knowledge of Manitoba's health system, population, and areas of greatest need to the development of new models of care.

This will work result in a system that is simpler and easier for patients to access, more efficient and effective for providers and will improve outcomes for Manitoba patients.

The work of the PCTs is both evidence-based, and will apply the leading practices of other jurisdictions to the challenges and opportunities observed within our province. It is also locally-informed, with the involvement of hundreds of Manitoba clinical providers who are able to leverage their combined experience to recommend future models of care that will result in better care for Manitoba patients.



Who are Manitoba's patients?

The PCTs are building this provincial plan on a solid understanding of Manitoba's current health care system, including where services are offered, the patient population being treated, and the providers who deliver care.

Data compiled from a variety of sources, including census information, Statistics Canada Community Health Surveys, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living and previous expert reports and reviews of our health system has been analyzed, validated and refined by the PCTs.



This “current state” analysis is not exhaustive but provides each PCT with a multi-source inventory of clinical services offered by specialty area (community and public health, long term care, hospital, physician billing, discharge) and region across the province as well as an overview of patients by health status and the location where they access clinical services.

PCTs were asked to highlight local contexts or practices that may not be reflected in the current state data and to identify additional areas of data that would inform the next steps of the planning process.

Rural and northern PCT members in particular were asked to provide their insight regarding the realities of delivering care in more rural or remote areas of our province which may not be appropriately captured in the data.

Combined, this information has allowed for the development of a baseline assessment of patient populations and patient volumes in all Manitoba care settings as well as future projections of population and incidence of disease and a better understanding of the gaps that exist between services.



Identifying Opportunities

Manitoba’s healthcare outcomes have also been compared to other jurisdictions using recognized benchmarks and available data from CIHI. This analysis has highlighted a number of service gaps and allowed for informed discussion on areas of priority. PCT members are now being asked to consider the early opportunities identified and to make recommendations of goals to be pursued over the first five years of the implementation of the Provincial Clinical and Preventive Services Plan. Teams have also been asked to identify the performance indicators that should be used to measure progress and outcomes as the plan is implemented.

To inspire innovation and “outside the box” thinking as PCT members discuss their future vision for healthcare in Manitoba, a jurisdictional scan was completed within each specialty area offering multiple examples of global leading practices and models implemented elsewhere as health systems around the world have moved toward new and different ways of delivering care



Building the Foundation

Our ability to improve the coordination, access and effectiveness of clinical services as a whole is closely tied to our ability to better leverage inter-professional teams and technology.

Workshops have included a focus on the fundamental nature of information and communication technology as an enabler of better health care delivery. Patient stories and examples of the use of technology in other jurisdictions have demonstrated that clear pathways to care do not always need to be physical and have encouraged consideration of how we could better use distance treatment and consultation options.

Patients in rural and northern Manitoba in particular often face unique challenges in accessing health care services as a result of our province's natural geography, dispersed population and inclement weather. Across Manitoba, MBTelehealth connects more than 500 clinicians in more than 90 specialty areas to patients at 189 sites across the province. One quarter of these sites are in First Nations communities, providing access to services that in the past may have required patients to travel to a more urban centre for care.



PCT members have taken virtual journeys in each of the workshops, visiting with a pediatric nurse practitioner from Thompson who uses technology to enable her young patients to stay closer to home while receiving specialized care via a MBTelehealth connection between Thompson's Level 2 Nursery and neonatal medical staff in Winnipeg. Workshops have also explored a pediatric concussion program called CONNECT (CONcussion in the North Education, Consultation and Telemedicine Program) which connects head injury specialist Dr. Michael Ellis with young northern patients diagnoses with head injuries. This type of specialized care was not available to pediatric patients in their communities prior to this initiative.

In the 2017/18 fiscal year, MBTelehealth had over 23,000 clinical events on the network and provided service to urban, rural and northern communities across Manitoba, northwestern Ontario and Inuit communities in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut. These interactions resulted in 15.3 million avoided kilometers of travel and led to an estimated savings of \$6.3 million.

As leading practices, available technology and the health care needs of patients evolve, the opportunity to provide Manitobans with access to health services while overcoming the barriers of distance, time and expense becomes increasingly foundational to our ability to improve our province's health care system.

Next Steps

PCTs are continuing their work to define clinical pathways across health organizations, identify patient access points and ensure they meet the current and future projections of patient volumes across community, primary and acute settings.

All members of Manitoba's Provincial Clinical Teams will meet again on December 3 for a provincial symposium that will focus on the inter-dependencies and integration points for the draft future models developed by each PCT.