

Transition from Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to Regional Primary Health Care Networks (RPHCNs)

The MAPS 2-Year Implementation Plan committed to designing a regional model that would address identified gaps within the current Primary Care Networks (PCNs). The MAPS Strategic Advisory Panel identified gaps related to inconsistent service delivery, fragmented care coordination, and limited alignment to broader health system priorities. These are issues that the government has also committed to addressing through the broader System Refocus efforts.

The regional networks are being designed to build on the strengths of PCNs while addressing these key issues. The goal is to ensure primary health care services are available to all Albertans, including those with or without a regular primary health care provider.

The transition to regional networks is one part of the government's efforts to transform the primary care sector and refocus the health care system.

Additional Information:

- The service area boundaries for regional networks will align with the seven geographic service areas of the health corridors, resulting in seven regional networks: North-West, North-East, Edmonton, Central, Calgary, South-West and South-East regions.
- The regional networks' mandate will include regional, population and unattached patient services and system support functions, which include support to patient medical homes, system coordination and integration.
- The Primary and Preventative Health Services Ministry, in partnership with Primary Care Alberta (PCA), will work with each PCN to develop transition plans.
- A phased implementation will be used to allow parties to learn and adjust approach, and to enable ongoing stakeholder engagement.
- A transition policy is being developed to outline how transition is initiated and provide clarity on the transition process.
- The draft transition policy will be shared with PCA, the Provincial MAPS Advisory Committee (PMAC), the Structure/Governance Design and Implementation (GDI) sub-committee and the Communication and Change Management (CCM) sub-committee for input and advice prior to final approval.
- The focus remains on providing stability, continuity of care and building a model that supports long term system improvement, while minimizing disruption to service delivery.

Key Points:

- **This is a transition, not a closure.**
The shift to Regional Primary Health Care Networks (RPHCNs) is about evolving and strengthening primary health care delivery to ensure consistency, equity, and broader access across Alberta.
- **Patient care and stabilization are top priorities.**
Throughout this process, maintaining uninterrupted access to care and minimizing disruptions for both patients and providers is paramount. Regionalization will **not restrict patient access** between service areas.

The intent is to retain and support staff. The government and each PCN, in partnership with PCA, will review employment agreements with the intent to transfer staff to the new RPHCN structure.

- **A phased approach will ensure stability.**

Transitions will occur **zone by zone**, based on the unique circumstances and contracts of each PCN. This allows time to work through legal, financial, and employment details thoughtfully and collaboratively.

- **Dedicated policy support is coming.**

A **Transition Policy** is under development and will clarify timelines, processes, and document sharing requirements. Drafts will be shared with PCA, PMAC, and other advisory groups for input before finalization in **mid-July**.

- **Communication will be open and ongoing.**

Government, PCA, and zone partners will work together transparently and respectfully. Direct engagement with each PCN will begin this summer.