



Patient PANEL PROJECT



Who can I talk to if I have questions?

If you have questions about the project or do not want your information to be shared in this project, please contact the Health Quality Council of Alberta. The person to contact about this project is:

Dale Wright
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403-355-4439

What is the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA)?

The HQCA is funded by the Alberta government and guided by the Health Quality Council of Alberta Act. The HQCA promotes and helps to improve patient safety and health service quality. It works with patients and the public, those who provide healthcare, and the government. The HQCA uses information about the health of Albertans and the health system to study, report on, and improve patient safety and health service quality.

What is the purpose of the Patient Panel Project?

This project will help your family doctor define the group of patients that he or she provides ongoing care for. The list of all of a doctor's patients is called a patient panel.

What is a health home?

Patients who get ongoing care from one main family doctor and clinic team have better health results and tend to use fewer health services. This link between a patient and their family doctor and clinic is called a health home. The health services a patient needs are coordinated in a health home.

Family doctors in Alberta are working with their patients to ensure that everyone has a health home. They want to know which patients believe them to be their main family doctor.

How are your doctor and the HQCA working together on the Patient Panel Project?

The HQCA, by law, has access to health information. This includes information such as date of visit, patient health number, and doctor name and location.

Doctors have records for patients they have seen over many years, including some patients that they no longer provide ongoing care for. The HQCA will share information with the doctor about the pattern of visits by patients they have seen in the last three years. This will help the doctor confirm who their ongoing patients are so that they can provide better care.

How will the information be used?

In this project the doctor will use information from the HQCA, from their own office medical record system, and from patients. This will help the doctor find out which patients believe he or she is their main family doctor. The next time you schedule an appointment you may be asked to confirm whether the doctor is your main family doctor. Or you may be called by clinic staff to confirm whether the doctor is your main family doctor.

How will your privacy be protected?

All information that can be used to identify you (for example, your health number, name, contact information) will be protected in the way that is required by Alberta law.

What are the benefits and risks for me?

As a result of this project, your doctor may confirm that you believe the doctor and clinic to be your health home. This will make it easier for the doctor to provide you with the healthcare that you need.

Your health number may appear on the list of a family doctor who you have seen in the last three years but who you do not believe is your main doctor. You may be called by someone from the office of a doctor who is not your main family doctor. If this happens, let them know that you have a different family doctor. This will not affect the care you receive.