

**Alberta Cancer Board  
HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE NETWORK**

***2003-2005 Work Plan***

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# The Alberta Cancer Board Hospice Palliative Care Network 2003-2005 Work Plan

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## 1. Introduction

The Hospice Palliative Care Network (HPCN) was first named *Palliative Care Network Initiative* (PCNI). It was created by the Alberta Cancer Board (with funding from the Alberta Cancer Foundation) in 1998 to contribute to the vision of providing equitable access to palliative care services for people living or affected by cancer in Alberta.

In February 2003, the PCNI held a Strategic Planning Workshop to seek valued input from 17 stakeholders across the province. Highlights and findings from the workshop are outlined in a paper entitled *Palliative Care Network Initiative: Looking forward- Report from a workshop held February 21, 2003* (Birdsell, 2003). The group strongly recommended dropping the word “initiative” from the title of the PCNI and maintaining the “Network” approach. Building on these suggestions, the PCNI will start to be operated under the name *Hospice Palliative Care<sup>1</sup> Network (HPCN)*, effective November 1, 2003.

This work plan describes the current work of the HPCN and anticipated work for 2003-2005. It incorporates many suggestions made by participants at the PCNI Strategic Planning Workshop. It is also aligned with the *Alberta Cancer Control Action Plan* (Alberta Cancer Board, 2003). A Provincial Framework for the HPCN complements this document (Paquin, 2003). The framework elaborates on the mission, vision, values, resources and principal functions of the HPCN. It is available by contacting the HPCN at [mariejos@cancerboard.ab.ca](mailto:mariejos@cancerboard.ab.ca)

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of the ACB Hospice Palliative Care Network is:

- To improve access and enhance integration of hospice palliative care in the province so that services that are needed are available timely to cancer patients/families.

Therefore the ACB Hospice Palliative Care Network develops working/collaborative partnership with all people/organizations who provide hospice palliative care to people living with cancer and their families and plans activities that:

- address the expectations/needs of patients/families/caregivers;
- influence hospice palliative care programs/services planning, development, implementation, and evaluation.

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<sup>1</sup> Within the consultation process of developing national norms of hospice palliative care practice, the words « hospice » and « palliative care » were coined (Ferris et al., 2002). Therefore, hospice palliative care is the term nationally accepted and replaces “palliative care”. The renaming of PCNI is aligned with this new terminology.





## B. Governance

Description	Activities	Outcomes (Results)
<p><b>As an Alberta Cancer Board (ACB) entity, the HPCN plays a critical role in assisting the agency in achieving its mission and activities that impact the quality of living and dying of people living with cancer. As a program funded by the Alberta Cancer Foundation, the HPCN communicates to the Foundation its activities and outcomes.</b></p> <p><b>While the responsibility for delivering hospice palliative care services rests with health authorities, agencies and individual practitioners, the HPCN demonstrates leadership in setting direction and policy related to hospice palliative care. It demonstrates accountability by reporting its achievement to the Alberta Cancer Foundation and stakeholders.</b></p>	Participation in ACB Committees including ACB Accreditation	Involvement of HPCN in all ACB Committees relevant to content area
	Review/ Development of ACB/Cancer Centres Policies	Hospice Palliative Care principles, values, and definition integrated within ACB/ Cancer Centres policies
	Posting of information about the HPCN on ACB web site and <a href="http://www.albertapalliative.net">www.albertapalliative.net</a>	Internet users informed about HPCN role and activities
Dissemination of Annual Report	Funding agency and stakeholders informed about the HPCN outcomes	



### C. Capacity Building

Description	Activities	Outcomes (Results)
<p><b>Capacity building is a core strategy for ensuring equitable access to hospice palliative care across Alberta. Exactly how the hospice palliative care capacity is developed in each health region depends upon existing resources, programs, services and strengths.</b></p> <p><b>The HPCN uses the best structures and processes to build the capacity to answer the expectations and needs of palliative patients and their families across Alberta. It builds upon the existing provincial hospice palliative care community. It facilitates program planning/development/implementation/evaluation across regions. It provides one-on-one consultation and information materials about hospice palliative care. Finally, the HPCN enhances the provincial and its own capacity by collaborating with other provincial agencies in strengthening hospice palliative care.</b></p>	<p>Piloting, funding and evaluation of Interface Projects</p>	<p>Access to funding for an Interface Project to regional health authorities</p>
	<p>Establishment of a hospice palliative care group: Rural ASAP (Alberta Strategic Alliance for Palliative Care)</p>	<p>Specific rural issues and challenges identified, addressed and acted on</p>
	<p>Consultations</p>	<p>Timely consultations provided upon request</p>
	<p>Review, development and dissemination of Info-Sheets (e.g., data on cancer deaths, use and drug coverage of biphosphonates for cancer patients, etc.)</p> <p>Collaborative work with the British-Columbia (BC) Cancer Agency</p>	<p>Six Info-Sheets completed by 2005.</p> <p>Replication of some of the work from BC Cancer Agency in Alberta</p>



## D. Quality of Care

Description	Activities	Outcomes (Results)
<p>Numerous initiatives can be undertaken to enhance quality of hospice palliative care in Alberta. In 2002, the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) developed a model to guide hospice palliative care based on national principles and norms of practice (Ferris et al., 2002). This model guides the development of a comprehensive quality management strategy to review both patient and family care, and organization development and function. In collaboration with the Palliative Care Association of Alberta, the HPCN promotes the use of the National norms of hospice palliative care practice.</p>	<p>Dissemination of the National Norms of Hospice Palliative Care Practice (CHPCA Model)</p>	<p>National Norms of Hospice Palliative Care Practice disseminated to all cancer centres</p> <p>Yearly increase of 10% in number of people trained/informed about the CHPCA Model provincially</p>
<p>In 2002, the HPCN initiated a provincial survey based on the CHPCA Model to review resources, functions and domains of care available in each health regions. The results (status report) of the survey will provide information about how the regions “stack up” with respect to having the resources and foci recommended in the norms of practice developed by CHPCA.</p>	<p>Provincial survey based on the CHPCA Model</p>	<p>Status report completed and disseminated by December 2004</p>

<p>The HPCN has also a commitment to hospice palliative care research by working in collaboration with the Alberta Cancer Board Palliative Care Research Initiative.</p>	<p>Collaborative work with the Palliative Care Research Initiative (PCRI)</p>	<p>Outcomes of PCRI researches disseminated to the hospice palliative care community</p>
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## E. Education

Description	Activities	Outcomes (Results)
<p><b>Building the hospice palliative care capacity in Alberta cannot be achieved without supporting formal caregivers in the acquisition of knowledge and skills. At the cancer system level developing the hospice palliative care initial knowledge of formal caregivers is crucial for ensuring timely and relevant linkages to the appropriate resource for the care of palliative patients.</b></p> <p>The HPCN, in collaboration with the Pallium Project, facilitates the coordination of an educational initiative to provide the initial hospice palliative care training to all staff of cancer centres across Alberta.</p>	<p>Initial training of staff of cancer centres via Pallium</p>	<p>Initial training and evaluation of the educational initiative completed by March 2005</p>



Since 1999, through funding from the Alberta Cancer Foundation, the HPCN acts as the “centre of distribution” for the clinical evidence-based resource entitled *Alberta Palliative Care Resource* (Pereira & Bruera, 1999 & 2001). The HPCN continues to fulfill this responsibility and participates in further enhancement of the 2001 edition as envisioned in the Pallium Project. These two key activities are complemented with collaboration to conferences.

Ongoing distribution *Alberta Palliative Care Resource* and collaboration to re-edition

Ongoing distribution to all regional palliative care programs and cancer centres

Blueprint for re-edition completed by March 2005

Collaboration to conferences

Hospice palliative care profiled in Cancer Care Conferences

HPCN profiled at the CHPCA/PCAA 2005 National Conference (Edmonton)



## F. Integration and Access

Description	Activities	Outcomes (Results)
<p><b>Responding to the recommendations/actions of the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control (Health Canada, 2002) and the Alberta Cancer Control Action Plan (Alberta Cancer Board, 2003), the HPCN undertakes a variety of activities aimed at enhancing integration and improving access to hospice palliative care.</b></p>	<p>PSRP (Psychosocial, Supportive, Rehabilitative, and Palliative Care) Closer to Home Project</p> <p>Provincial Health Link</p>	<p>PSRP environmental scan completed</p> <p>Ongoing linkages between cancer centres and regional/community hospice palliative care resources</p> <p>Hospice Palliative Care Resources incorporated within the database of the Provincial Health Link</p>

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## Hospice Palliative Care Network 2003 – 2005 Work Plan at a Glance

**Purpose: To improve access and enhance integration of hospice palliative care in the province so that services that are needed are available timely to cancer patients/families**

