

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the current status of the Transition to Regional Networks project?

From January to March, Alberta Health held a second round of in-person and virtual design workshops across the province as part of the Transition to Regional Networks project. We have now concluded the design and engagement phase. The project team will be using all stakeholder feedback to inform the recommendations and all options for the Regional Network model that will be presented to Minister and Cabinet this Spring.

Under Section 22 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* any advice, recommendations, or policy considerations submitted to Cabinet must be kept confidential. Alberta Health will be unable to share any information about the Regional Network model during this time.

Has the feedback from stakeholders been incorporated into the regional model?

There has been extensive engagement throughout the project. To date, the team has met with over 500 stakeholders and has made iterative revisions to the proposed model based on the information and advice provided. Stakeholder feedback will be presented to Minister and Cabinet for their consideration as part of the Cabinet package.

What can Primary Care Networks (PCNs) expect during the next phase of the project?

PCN funding has been extended until March 31, 2026, and PCNs are expected to continue operating as usual until they transition into a Regional Network. The Transition to Regional Networks project aims to minimize disruption to patient care. As such, a phased implementation strategy is being planned to engage and keep stakeholders up to date during the transition period.

Cabinet decisions on policy options are expected to be announced in Summer 2025. Once received, Alberta Health will communicate decisions regarding the model design and begin discussions with PCNs around transition planning and to support change management.

When can PCNs expect to be transitioned to Regional Networks?

Alberta Health will work with PCNs through the summer to develop transition plans. A phased transition approach is being developed to ensure a smooth and coordinated shift to the Regional Networks model. Alberta Health and Primary Care Alberta will work closely with PCNs throughout this process, providing support to minimize disruption for providers, staff, and patients.

We recognize that it will take time for Regional Networks to implement the new regional mandate. A phased approach to implementing the Regional Networks mandate will also be developed during the transition period.

What are the key milestones in the transition process, and how will updates be communicated?

An overall transition plan will be developed for all Regional Networks, as well as individual transition plans for each of the 39 PCNs. These plans will be created in consultation with PCN stakeholders to ensure the unique needs of each region and PCN are considered.

Updates on the transition will be provided through multiple channels to keep stakeholders informed. These include:

- ADM Townhall meetings

- MAPS Newsletter
- Direct engagement with each PCN
- Structure/Governance, Design and Implementation and Communication & Change Management sub-committee meeting

How will PCNs, clinics, and providers be supported during the transition to minimize disruption?

PCN funding has been extended until March 31, 2026, and PCNs are expected to continue operating as usual until they transition into a Regional Network. Alberta Health and Primary Care Alberta will work with each PCN to develop a transition plan that aims to minimize disruption for clinics, providers, staff and patients.

A phased implementation strategy is being planned to engage and keep stakeholders up to date during the transition period.

Will the shared services entity support the new Regional Networks?

A shared services entity is being established to provide corporate and support services to all four provincial health agencies and service providers.