Key Messages:

- Health Networks are **collaborative teams of health professionals**, including physicians, and community partners providing fully integrated services to meet the health needs of individuals and communities.
- Creating Health Networks is all about ensuring our **patients get the right care at the right time** from the right health care provider as close to home as possible.
- Health Networks exist within a small, defined geography. They aim to **deliver healthcare services closest to where the patient lives/works**. Care is accessible, coordinated, timely and centered on the needs of the patient.
- Health Networks will help to advance the **integration of team-based community and primary health care** in both urban and rural Saskatchewan – aiming to reduce the likelihood of citizens needing acute care, and strengthening transition back to primary or home care from the hospital by embracing a team approach.
- Health Networks will work to provide communities consistent access to the care and services they require – including physicians and other providers such as pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physiotherapists, dietitians, mental health councilors social workers, and more.
- These Networks will support citizens to receive consistent care **closer to home** as much as possible, and will also improve supports offered to physicians and other health care providers.
- The geographies and services offered within each network have been informed by data and validated by the citizens of the network, to help ensure the networks are **reflective of the communities they serve**.
- Networks will provide care that is **accessible, coordinated, timely and centred on the needs of the patient** by adapting to the needs of the specific population for that geographic area.
- The creation of networks will allow the SHA to better allocate staff and resources to **meet the particular needs of the citizens** living within that network.

Questions & Answers:

What are Health Networks?

- Health Networks **are collaborative teams of health professionals,** including physicians, and community partners providing fully integrated services to meet the health needs of individuals and communities.
- Health Networks are a tool that will enable **team-based care** in the community.

Why health networks?

- Patients, providers, physicians, and leaders all call for **integrated, coordinated health care** in the community, as we currently have a fragmented health system with various parts requiring integration.
- Creating Health Networks is all about ensuring our patients get the **right care at the right time from the right health care provider as close to home as possible**.

What's new?

- Networks will facilitate accessible, coordinated and timely care that is centred on the needs of patients.
- Health services will be informed by population and public health data and adapted to meet the **needs of the specific population** within that geographic area.
- When Health Networks are fully developed, providers can expect **enhanced navigation and access to care** for their patients.

Are the Health Network geographies just new boundaries, like the former regions?

- No. The geographical boundaries are **not meant to inhibit the delivery of patient care**, as patients will be able to seamlessly move between networks as required.
- Health Networks support our large provincial organization to **maintain local connections** with the people we serve.
- Patients and citizens do not need to know which network they belong to in order to receive appropriate care.

How were Health Network geographies determined?

- The process for development of geographies for the SHA was **data-driven and community informed**. There was oversight from the tri-partite bodies of Health Network Advisory Committee (HNAC) and the Network Program Oversight Group (NPOG), both of which are co-lead between SHA, SMA, and Ministry of Health.

What is next?

- The next steps in this process will involve a detailed inventory on the current population's health status within each network followed by an assessment of health services available locally.
- The goal is to align resources as best as possible with local health service needs so patients receive care as close to home as they can.