

# MEMO

**DATE:** 10/6/2021

**TO:** SHA ELT, SLT, Physician Leaders, All Physicians

**FROM:** Dr. John Froh, Deputy Chief Medical Officer – Pandemic  
Lori Garchinski, Executive Director Provincial Programs – Tertiary Care

**RE:** SHA Launches Provincial Intensivist Program

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The Saskatchewan Health Authority will begin trialing a Provincial Intensivist program on October 8, 2021. The program will act as a single provincial clinical source for critical care consult, advice, access and support. In addition, it will ensure the ability to load level and maximize the use of critical care beds throughout the province during this 4<sup>th</sup> wave of COVID-19 patients.

Intensivists in Regina and Saskatoon will participate in a rotation to support this provincial role. The provincial intensivist will be **available 24 hours a day seven days a week to all physicians** working in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Internal Medicine and Emergency Department who have potential ICU patient admissions. Physicians are encouraged to consult early and often. Physicians in Saskatoon and Regina should continue to follow their current process for Intensive Care consultation.

**To access the Provincial Intensivist**, rural and northern physicians are advised to call the System Flow Coordination Centre (SFCC) at 1-866-766-6050. Upon request of critical care support, the physician will be linked to the Provincial Intensivist for consultation on patient care. Follow up documentation will be provided through SCM.

**SFCC Provincial Intensivist triggers include:**

- Need for an ICU consult
- All inter-facility transfers of patients intubated or on vasopressors
- Transport Physician requests.

Digital Health has been involved in supporting electronic documentation through SCM (Sunrise Clinical Manager) in some areas to ensure that high-quality transitions of care can be created for improved patient care. In addition, stakeholders from Regional Internal Medicine, SFCC, Emergency Medical Services, STARS, Air Ambulance, Quality, Safety & Strategy, and Critical Care came together to process map how this role can enhance patient care and movement through Mural board exercises and meetings.

During this trial phase of the program, the following outcomes will be reviewed: number of calls to the Provincial Intensivist, transfers initiated versus care in place of consultation, rerouting of transports to regional centers versus tertiary when appropriate, length of stay in the ICU, and possible repatriations closer to home when a patient is stabilized.

For questions, please contact Lori Garchinski at 306-766-3456.

**Safety | Accountability | Respect | Collaboration | Compassion**

With a commitment to a philosophy of Patient and Family Centred Care

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# Provincial Intensivist Program

## SFCC PROVINCIAL INTENSIVIST TRIGGERS:

