

Why Virtual Care?

- In other provinces, virtual care has been shown to reduce substance use, support individuals in recovery, and prevent overdoses.
- Virtual access to addiction medicine (VAAM) will increase access to timely addiction medicine treatment and reduce barriers to access—particularly in rural and remote Saskatchewan communities that do not have access to a local clinic or an addiction medicine prescriber in their community.
- Efforts will be made to reconnect clients with local, in-person clinics whenever possible. Those without access to local care will continue receiving ongoing virtual support.



Contact Information

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Email:

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CS-PIER-0333

VAAM Webpage:



<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/your-health/conditions-illnesses-services-wellness/all-z/mental-health-and-addictions/virtual-access-addiction-medicine>



saskhealthauthority.ca

The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.



Virtual Access to Addiction Medicine (VAAM)



CS-PIER-0333

Area: Provincial
JANAUARY 2026

What is VAAM?

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), in partnership with the Government of Saskatchewan, is increasing access to addiction supports in the province.

Through a new virtual access to addiction medicine (VAAM) program, Saskatchewan residents will receive timely, seamless access to a care team of physicians, nurses, and addiction counsellors **in a fully virtual format**.

What Services Are Available?

- Assessment and diagnosis of substance use disorders
- Prescriptions for addictions medicine
- Mental health screening and short-term support
- Brief counselling, trauma-informed and culturally safe care
- Routine screening for sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBIs)

Who Can Access VAAM?

- Individuals currently living in Saskatchewan
- Age 18+ (or mature minors at physician discretion)
- Anyone seeking help with opioid use or other addiction concerns

How it Works?

- **Intake:** Individuals receive timely virtual access to addiction support (via phone call or video conferencing)
- **Assessment:** Connection to a care team including, an addiction counsellor, nurse, and a physician.
- **Treatment:** Timely access to a prescription, if needed (e.g. buprenorphine), or re-engagement in addiction treatment services.
- **Coordination of Care:** Clients may be connected back to a local Rapid Access to Addiction Medicine (RAAM), Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) or a primary care clinic, or may continue to be supported through the virtual clinic.
- **Ongoing Care:** Support with follow-up care (i.e. possible inpatient treatment transition, connection to local in-person providers, or ongoing virtual addiction support.)

No referral needed
Self-refer or a loved one, health-care provider, or community-based provider can assist people to connect.

What to Expect?

Clients can access VAAM by phone or by using the Saskatchewan Virtual Visit Platform (SKVV):



Remote consultations with your healthcare provider without needing to travel.



Secure and easy-to-use application providing real-time video or audio consultations that can be used on various devices.



Collaboration with existing local supports (lab services, mental health and addictions outpatient services, pharmacists).



Telephone and access to private, confidential space may be provided by pharmacies and other community-based organizations for your virtual appointments.