

Alberta Lung Cancer Continuum Consensus Forum: Diagnosis, Treatment, Research and Innovation Pillar

Purpose of the Alberta Lung Cancer Forum

- To support a reduction in the burden of lung cancer in Alberta by bringing together multi-sectoral stakeholders to explore issues impacting lung cancer; and,
- To develop a consensus regarding recommendations.

Goal: To seek agreement and support for pillar-specific lung cancer continuum recommendations

Process for Discussions at the Lung Cancer Forum

At the Forum, ***each attendee will select one of three pillars*** to participate in during the day.

1. Primary Prevention, Screening and Diagnostics
2. Supportive Care and Improved Quality of Life
3. Diagnosis, Treatment, Research and Innovation

After the Opening Remarks and Keynote Presentation, pillar discussions will consist of:

- Morning session: Expert Presenters, Question and Answer time, and initial facilitated discussion
- Afternoon session: facilitated discussions to develop consensus around the recommendations

Diagnosis, Treatment, Research and Innovation pillar gaps, barriers and recommendations

Expert presenters and topic

- Dr. Don Morris: Overview of continuum
- Dr. Don Morris: Diagnosis and treatment continuum
- Dr. Gwyn Bebb: Research innovation, resource and funding improvements
- Ms. Beth Kidd: Improving access to lung cancer drugs

Gaps and barriers:

- Lack of understanding regarding the growing population burden of cancer
- Lack of coordination and implementation of molecular platform testing for lung cancer patients to identify best treatment paradigms

- Significant lack of resources within the treatment system, particularly when compared to other tumour groups and health care delivery
- Inequity in access to care is creating health disparities
- Access to cancer drugs process is not efficient or timely and limits progress in care
- Patients are not integrated as a community
- Limited or no access to patients before symptom manifestation (lack of early detection opportunities)
- No processes to engage and educate healthcare providers on lung cancer treatment and care issues
- No supports for knowledge exchange regarding improvements in lung cancer treatments for both patients and healthcare providers

Suggested recommendations:

1. Encourage improved funding supports for equitable access to lung cancer treatment. Recommend the development of a business case
2. Urge government to support innovation in lung cancer diagnosis, treatment, and research e.g. personalized medicine
3. Encourage improved access to cancer drugs. Recommend involvement in the national pharma-care discussion and process
4. Develop awareness and education to improve patient, family and physician knowledge regarding lung cancer including new therapies
5. Improve engagement and integration of patients and family caregivers as a community to support reductions in barriers to care
6. Improve treatment system referral pathway within the care system at different touch points