

Alberta Lung Cancer Continuum Consensus Forum: Supportive Care & Improved Quality of Life 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

Supportive Care & Improved Quality of Life Pillar gaps, barriers and recommendations

Expert presenters and topic

- Shaneel Pathak: Understanding the needs of patients and family caregivers
- Lisa Lamont: Reducing the gaps in supportive care
- Angeline Webb: Reducing stigma and altering social norms regarding lung cancer
- Dr. Ingrid de Kock: Palliative and end-of-life care supports for lung cancer patients

Gaps and barriers:

- Public perception that lung cancer is a self-inflicted disease has resulted the stigmatization of people living with lung cancer. This stigmatization can impact health outcomes. There are currently no processes in place to reduce stigma-related adverse health outcomes
- Lack of adequate and tailored psychosocial supports for lung cancer patients
- Palliative and end-of-life care is not integrated within the health system resulting in access barriers

- Lack of information and resources for lung cancer patients
- Lack of lung cancer identity narrative linked to inadequate supports and treatment outcomes

Suggested recommendations:

1. Support the development of initiatives that can help alter social norms concerning stigmatization and its burden. Develop public education and awareness campaigns focusing on altering public discourse and perception of lung cancer
2. Reduce gaps in supportive care practice
3. Improve engagement of patients and caregivers to fully understand their needs
4. Improve integration of palliative and end-of-life care within the lung cancer treatment system