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Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Summary

Public Body or Custodian: ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

**Project Title: CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT QUALITY OF LIFE
MEASUREMENT TOOL**

Date Submitted: February 11, 2009

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Project Summary:

Alberta Health Services ('AHS') – Edmonton Zone has adopted a broad approach to chronic disease management which integrates care across the health system – from hospitals to the community, matching patients to the most appropriate service, providing ongoing support and monitoring, and offering standardized education services to patients so they can manage their own chronic disease risk factors such as diet and exercise.

Health includes physical, mental, and social well-being, not just the absence of disease or injury. AHS Chronic Disease Management selected the Quality of Life Measurement Tool as a clinical tool to assess the health and quality of life of patients, to align patients who have chronic diseases with services to meet holistic health needs, and to evaluate the efficacy of treatment.

Surveys were developed for use with the Quality of Life Measurement Tool to be administered in two distinct phases: a population survey to establish norms for the region (non-identifiable); and clinical surveys to be administered to specific patient groups at defined intervals during the pilot project (identifiable). Patients will be offered the clinical survey as part of their regular care, with the initial survey undertaken during an appointment with their health service provider. Follow-up surveys will be mailed to the patients at 6 months and at 12 months following the initial survey. Those who choose to participate by completing the surveys will receive a "Health Quality of Life Summary" after each survey is submitted and analyzed.

Their family physician and/or referring physician will also receive the Health Quality of Life Summary to discuss with the patient and to assist with care planning.

The financial analysis portion of this pilot project will apply cost utilization data between the 6-month intervals of the surveys to 500 patients from two of the clinical survey groups: Regional Diabetes and Weight Wise. This information will be used to determine if and how modifications made to the care plans for these patients by their physicians or clinic nurses impacted the patient's care needs, including frequency of care, complexity of care, and cost of care.

AHS's commitment to this innovative chronic disease model contributes to improved health outcomes and a better quality of life for people living with chronic diseases. The results of this pilot project are expected to provide a better understanding of the clinical value of the Quality of Life Measurement Tool, the benefits for patients, the potential impact to the health system including clinical implications, and the feasibility of the Quality of Life Measurement Tool for implementation.

For additional information on this project contact:

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