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## Clinical Subject Matter Experts

### What is a Subject Matter Expert?

Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) provide the Connect Care initiative with real-life knowledge of work as it actually occurs in Alberta. They help decide how the clinical information system (CIS) is designed to serve the needs of front-line clinicians and support staff. Their expertise relates to a clinical area (e.g., medicine, surgery), profession (e.g., physician, nurse, allied health, support services), function (e.g., administration, education, research, decision support), location (e.g., zone, site, facility) or stakeholder community (e.g., medical staff, support staff, universities, regulators, partner).

### Who can be a Subject Matter Expert?

Anyone can bring subject matter expertise to Connect Care! SMEs need not be Connect Care leaders or be formally attached to the initiative... although Connect Care leaders will often help with design, build, validation and testing activities as SMEs themselves. A good SME communicates well, has rapport with and respect from peers, is enthusiastic about Connect Care and can anticipate how information tools might facilitate good practice.

Subject Matter Expertise is not a role; it is a contribution. Persons working in diverse roles (including clinical, non-clinical, AHS, and non-AHS) can all contribute expertise. Indeed, doing so matters because Connect Care will transform their work.

### When do Subject Matter Expert contributions happen?

SME contributions are important throughout the Connect Care journey and SMEs participate in many activities. Contributions can improve discovery (what is AHS like?), workflow design (how does AHS do things?) and content design (what will AHS do?). Subject Matter Experts are involved in Groundwork (discovery), Direction-Setting (workflow), and Clinical System Design (content) activities. They also help with Connect Care oversight by serving on committees, councils and advisory groups. Closer to implementation, SME contributions keep CC Communities of Practice and User Groups relevant.

### How are Subject Matter Expert contributors identified?

SME contributions are vitally important to keeping Connect Care aligned with clinical purpose and good business sense. Therefore, it is important that SME contributions reflect the diversity of AHS and Alberta. AHS zone leaders nominate SMEs with different backgrounds and experiences and gaps are filled when Connect Care and other leaders identify unique or specific expertise needed.

All physician experts are listed and categorized in a Connect Care physician registry. This is where nominations and volunteers are tracked. The registry is consulted when physician input is needed for Connect Care activities, such as Groundwork, Direction-Setting, Clinical System Design and governance.

### Where can more questions be answered?

More detailed information about clinician roles and contributions can be found in the [Connect Care clinician handbook](#) ([handbook.ahs-cis.ca/mdroles](http://handbook.ahs-cis.ca/mdroles), [handbook.ahs-cis.ca/mdcontributions](http://handbook.ahs-cis.ca/mdcontributions)). A process map, “[Accessing Subject Matter Expertise](#)” explains preferred arrangements for obtaining SME contributions to Direction-Setting, Clinical System Design, CIS Configuration, Committees and Councils and other Connect Care activities.

[handbook.ahs-cis.ca/?=SME](http://handbook.ahs-cis.ca/?=SME)