

IMPROVING EQUITY OF CARE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO: Leveraging the Value of Advanced Clinical Practitioners in Arthritis Care

THE CURRENT STATE

There are health inequities resulting from limited access to rheumatological care for individuals in Northern Ontario.



1 Individuals who live in Northern Ontario are more likely to have rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) compared to elsewhere in the province.



2 Poor access to rheumatologists

10x further access to a rheumatologist



A patient in Northern Ontario has to travel on average 330 km to see a rheumatologist.

Lack of staffing resources

Number of >1 full-time equivalent (FTE) per 75,000 population (2019)



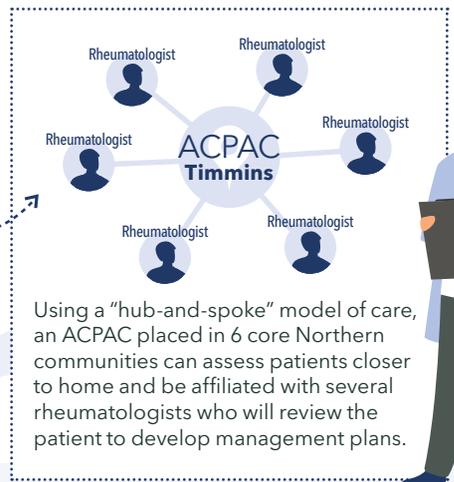
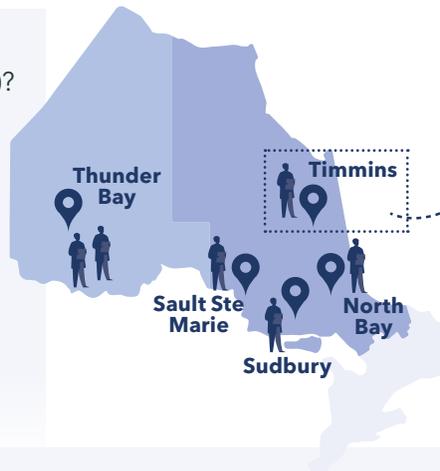
3 Increased risk of disability and death from rheumatic diseases in Northern Ontario.



CURRENT OPPORTUNITY

What is an Advanced Clinical Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC)?

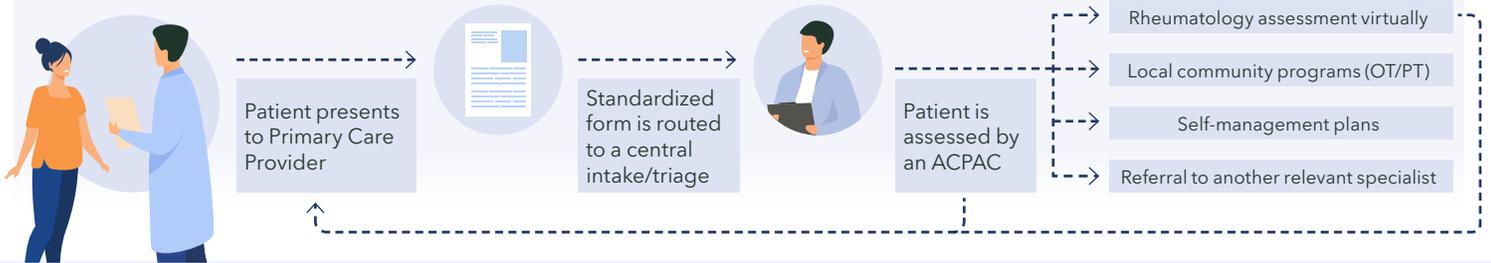
- ✓ A PT, OT, chiropractor or nurse who has done additional accredited training and works collaboratively with rheumatologists and primary care providers to optimize care of patients with arthritis.
- ✓ The ACPACs examination for arthritis has been validated to be reliable and effective when compared to the rheumatologist.



Using a "hub-and-spoke" model of care, an ACPAC placed in 6 core Northern communities can assess patients closer to home and be affiliated with several rheumatologists who will review the patient to develop management plans.



The Patient's Pathway



COST SAVINGS BY PROVIDING CARE *in* NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

1.2 Million per ACPAC per year

7.2 Million for 6 ACPACs per year



IMPACT



1 Better access and improved health outcomes; less disability



2 Better quality care that is closer to home



3 Better value to the health care system and optimization of health resources



4 Integrated, interprofessional care meeting the diverse needs of the North



5 Greater focus on health care equity and patient inclusivity