

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

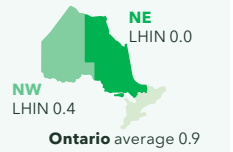
10x further access to a rheumatologist



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)



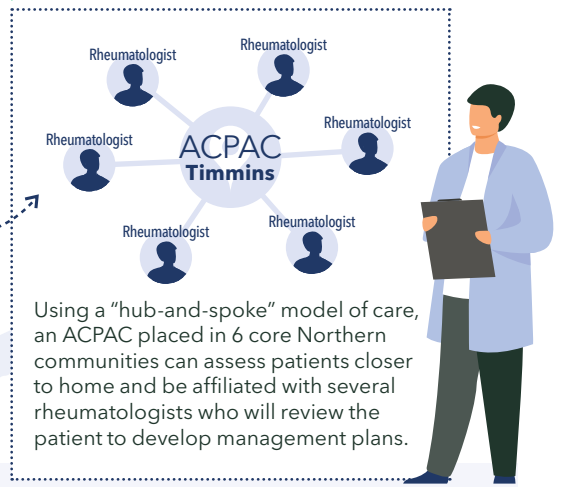
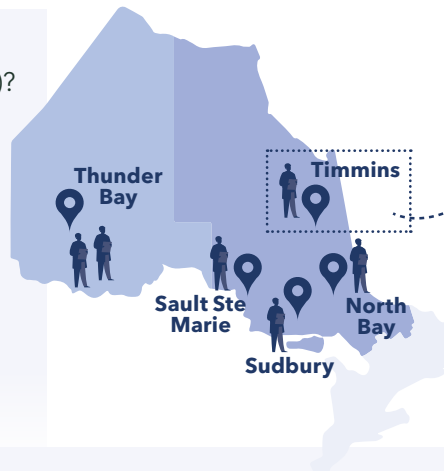
3 Increased risk of disability and death from rheumatic diseases in Northern Ontario.



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.



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