

Alberta’s health system measurement classification approach

Alberta’s Health System Measurement Classification Approach provides a structure for the development and maintenance of an inventory of performance measures in the Performance Measurement Information System (PMIS) and supports the identification of where the gaps in health system measurement exist. It is a conceptual tool for classifying measures according to domains and dimensions of health system performance.

The Classification Approach is structured according to four major “domains” –

1. Population Health
2. Health Services Delivery
3. Governance and Community Engagement
4. Health System Sustainability

These macro-level domains comprise the four major areas of overall importance selected to measure the performance of Alberta’s health system. Each domain is further sub-divided into “Dimensions” allowing for more focused measurement within and unique to that domain.

Population Health							
Well-Being	Health Conditions	Human Function	Death	Health Behaviours	Living and Working Conditions	Personal Resources	Environmental Factors
Health Services Delivery							
Acceptability	Accessibility	Appropriateness	Effectiveness		Efficiency	Safety	
Governance and Community Engagement							
Governance		Community Engagement			Accreditation		
Health System Sustainability							
Health Technologies		Health Workforce		Information Management/ Information Technology		Fiscal Efficiencies	

Domain #1: Population Health

The domain of population health is built on the health status dimension and the non-medical determinants of health dimension of the internationally recognized Health Indicator Framework used by CIHI and Statistics Canada to classify health indicators. The Alberta Performance Measurement Classification Approach is designed so that the population health domain includes both sub-dimensions of health status (well-being; health conditions; human function; death) and sub-dimensions of the non-medical determinants of health (health behaviours; living and working conditions; personal resources; environmental factors).

Well-Being	Health Conditions	Human Function	Death	Health Behaviours	Living and Working Conditions	Personal Resources	Environmental Factors
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Domain #2: Health Services Delivery

The concept of quality is the central theme underpinning the domain of Health Services Delivery. The six dimensions within the health services delivery are derived from the six dimensions of health quality as defined in the Alberta Health Quality Matrix. These six dimensions are: Acceptability, Accessibility, Appropriateness, Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Safety.

Acceptability	Accessibility	Appropriateness	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Safety
Health services are respectful and responsive to user needs, preferences and expectations.	Health services are obtained in the most suitable setting in a reasonable time and distance.	Health services are relevant to user needs and are based on accepted or evidence-based practice.	Health services are provided based on scientific knowledge to achieve desired outcomes.	Resources are optimally used in achieving desired outcomes.	Mitigate risks to avoid unintended or harmful results.

Domain #3: Governance and Community Engagement

The focus of this domain relates to the concept of assurance. The relationship between the Ministry and Alberta Health Services (AHS), including legislated requirements for key accountability documents is captured here, as is the profiling of community involvement in health system planning and system-level assurance with health system facilities and delivery processes. The domain of governance and community engagement encompasses three dimensions, namely governance, community engagement, and accreditation.

Governance	Community Engagement	Accreditation
Good governance by AHS is evidenced by timely submission to the Minister of AHS health plans and accountability reports.	Effective community engagement for planning, delivery and evaluation of health services is evidenced by timely submission to the Minister of AHS Health Advisory Council annual reports.	AHS undertakes accreditation activities in compliance with the Minister's directive on mandatory accreditation, maintains acceptable accreditation status, and submits an accreditation report annually.

Domain #4: Health System Sustainability

The cost of Alberta's health care system constitutes a significant percentage of government expenditures. Indicators in the domain of health system sustainability measure impacts of resource allocation decisions that affect health system sustainability, now and in future. The domain of health system sustainability includes the measures classified according to one of four dimensions: health technologies, health workforce, information management and information technology, and fiscal efficiencies.

Health Technologies	Health Workforce	Information Management/ Information Technology	Fiscal Efficiencies
Impacts of health technology and research on health system sustainability.	Efficient, safe, and cost effective use of human resources in healthy work environments.	Efficient and cost effective use of health information technologies and systems.	Impacts of fiscal policy on cost containment and health system sustainability.