

# ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

WWW.ARTHRITISALLIANCE.CA

## About us

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada, formerly the Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program (ACAP), was formed in 2002. Its goal is to improve the lives of Canadians with arthritis. With more than 30 member organizations, the Arthritis Alliance brings together arthritis health care professionals, researchers, funding agencies, governments, voluntary sector agencies, industry and, most importantly, representatives from arthritis consumer organizations, from across Canada. While each member organization continues its own work, the Alliance provides a central focus with a collaborative approach for national arthritis-related initiatives.

## Building the case for a National Framework for Arthritis

### The Standards for Arthritis Prevention and Care (2005)

Consensus was obtained from a broad group of arthritis stakeholders and patients across Canada. The Arthritis community developed 12 *actionable* standards (the “Standards”) for arthritis prevention and care in Canada.

### The Funding Landscape Review (2011)

Canada's leading arthritis research organizations—Canadian Institutes of Health Research-Institute for Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (CIHR-IMHA), The Arthritis Society, Canadian Arthritis Network and the Arthritis Alliance came together in a fact finding exercise to understand the arthritis research funding landscape in Canada. The Report summarizes Canada's strengths, needs and challenges in arthritis research.

### The Impact of Arthritis in Canada (2011)

“The Impact of Arthritis in Canada: Today and Over the Next 30 Years” report not only demonstrates the enormity of the growing burden of arthritis over a 30 year period, but also provides examples of how this burden can be mitigated by health awareness, education, and intervention in the future. The Report played a major role in informing government and society, and garnering support for a National Arthritis Framework.

### Joint Action on Arthritis (2012)

The reports noted above were the building blocks to form the case for a National Framework for Arthritis. “Joint Action on Arthritis: A Framework to Improve Arthritis Prevention and Care in Canada” (The “Framework”) serves as the mechanism for implementing the *Standards* and turning the findings of the other key reports into **ACTION**. The Framework articulates the vision and actions needed to drive dramatic improvements in arthritis prevention and care. It establishes research priorities and strategies, identifies principles to guide the design and delivery of care and proposes a mechanism to engage with governments and the broader healthcare community.

**The Alliance has already begun to address the National Framework priorities by gathering our resources and focusing on the community's strengths:**

### Tool for Developing and Evaluating Models of Care (2012)

A tool intended to help model developers assess the completeness of models of care, suggest improvements and view their readiness for expansion. It can be used for the planning, development or formative evaluation of models of care.

### A Pan-Canadian Approach to Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care (2014)

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) launched **a pan-Canadian Approach to Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care** to improve the way health care is delivered. The report establishes a standardized framework for the development of high quality models of IA care that are evidenced formed and reinforced by best practices. The Alliance's approach to optimal models of care, when implemented, will ensure that every Canadian affected by IA receives timely diagnosis and treatment. Additionally, the AAC developed a standardized IA Care Map and Toolkit, a comprehensive map of the patient's journey through the health care system, with a list of tools for each step along the way.

## Towards a Performance Measurement Framework for Inflammatory Arthritis Care in Canada

As a next step, the Alliance developed a Performance Measurement Framework to define system-level performance measures for IA care in Canada. The framework will serve as a toolkit for healthcare decision-makers to evaluate health systems and inform health system changes with the goal of developing safe, cost-effective, efficient, high quality care for IA patients.

## Collaboration

Collaboration has been the hallmark of the Alliance's success. Improving the lives of people living with arthritis requires support and participation of all stakeholders. Everybody has a role to play.

To get involved or get more information about the Arthritis Alliance, please contact Jaime Coish [jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:jcoish@arthritisalliance.ca). All publications referenced are available at [www.arthritisalliance.ca](http://www.arthritisalliance.ca).

