

Observership

The Collaborative Mentorship Network for Chronic Pain and Addiction (CMN) partnered with comprehensive primary care clinics serving vulnerable populations to pilot a unique in-clinic mentoring model called Observerships. They provided health care practitioners the opportunity to shadow clinicians with experience in the management of people with complex needs and chronic pain and or substance use disorders.

The Observership applications opened in fall 2021 and closed in spring 2023. The participants (observers) had the opportunity to complete either a full or half day observership at participating sites. The goal was to provide shadowing opportunities that health care practitioners may not have had previously. Observers followed clinicians as they met with patients and learned skills through a hands-on approach.

Observership matches were made much like a mentoring relationship—matches were optimized by reviewing a participant’s learning objectives and the participating site’s programs and services. The Observership program was open to all health care professionals and allowed clinicians who work in different professions the opportunity to train under professionals of other disciplines to expand their knowledge and provide better care and resources to their patients.

Participants included a diverse range of professionals, such as nurses, family physicians and various other fields. This effectively embodied the essence of interdisciplinary care in addressing the complex issues of chronic pain and addictions.



10 observers in total



6 partnered clinics across Calgary and Edmonton

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“My observer had clear goals and pre-prepared questions. The day felt very valuable and worthwhile.”

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“I had an excellent day. Great questions from my observer which made me look further into my own practice and enrich my knowledge. My clients were happy to support ongoing learning.”

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