IDENTIFYING INFORMATION	
Name:	**Consistent use of the same family doctor (doctor continuity)**
Short/Other Names:	n/a

BACKGROUND, INTERPRETATION AND BENCHMARKS	
Description:	The percentage of all visits to family doctors that are to the same family doctor.
Rationale:	This measure provides an opportunity to assess the impact of relational continuity on different outcomes and more specifically chronic disease management, and preventive service delivery. Hence, this measure provides a means to understand how patients' continuity to a family doctor may be associated with health service utilization and other measures. Continuity to a family doctor substantially impacts healthcare services utilization, patient outcomes, patient experience with care, and cost. In general, the greater the continuity, the more positive the outcomes.
Interpretation:	A lower value indicates that patients see other family doctors who are not their primary family doctor. A higher value is desirable.
Target/Benchmark:	No benchmarks have been identified.

INDICATOR CALCULATION	
Calculation:	**Description** Sum of all individual patients' continuity to a family doctor, divided by the total number of patients across a zone or PCN. Average Continuity = $$\frac{\text{Sum of all individual patients' family doctor continuity}}{\text{Total number of patients in zone or PCN}}$$ **Type of Measure:** Average **Adjustment Applied:** None
Denominator:	**Description** The number of patients in a given zone or PCN. Patients are assigned based on attachment to a family physician. **Inclusion Criteria** ▪ Patient list specifically submitted by physician.

	▪ Patients assigned to a physician based on the HQCA algorithm (Proxy panel).
	Exclusions
	▪ Duplicate family physician visits based on Patient Health Number (PHN), date, procedure and diagnostic codes, and physician identification are removed.
	▪ Patients who were seen by the physician but not assigned to them.
	Limitations & Technical Notes
	▪ Panel prediction is most accurate for practices in a single stable location over the past 3 fiscal years and for regular full-time work schedule.
	▪ Family physician visits include visits within a 3 fiscal year period.
Numerator:	**Description**
	Sum of individual patients' physician continuity in a zone or PCN. Individual patients' physician continuity is the percentage of time(s) a patient sees their primary physician compared to other family physician visits.
	Inclusion Criteria
	▪ Patient list specifically submitted by physician.
	▪ Patients assigned to a physician based on the HQCA algorithm (Proxy panel).
	Exclusions
	▪ None
	Limitations & Technical Notes
	▪ Physician continuity is most accurate for practices in a single stable location over the past 3 fiscal years and for regular full-time work schedule.
	▪ Family physician visits include visits within a 3 fiscal year period.
DATA DETAILS	

Data Sources:	Alberta Health Physician Claims.
Available Data Years:	**Type of Year:** Fiscal year [starts April 1, ends March 31] **First Available Year:** 2018/19 **Last Available Year:** 2022/23
Geographic Coverage:	The province of Alberta excluding the military and prisoners.
Reporting Levels:	Zone, PCN

Quality Statement	
Limitations:	▪ About 18% of Albertans do not visit a General Practitioner in a year. ▪ Patients are excluded in the physician panel assignment if they do not visit a physician in 3 years (the current fiscal year, plus the 2 preceding fiscal years). ▪ The physician claims dataset consists of Fee-for-service and shadow billing. The data submitted based on shadow billing may not be entirely accurate. As a result, this might affect the accuracy of the results of this measure. ▪ Only Alberta data is available. As such, any visits by Alberta patients outside of the province are not included.