

Backgrounder

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Questions and answers about the Clinexus initiative

What is the purpose of the Clinexus initiative?

- The initiative aims to support small companies in developing health technology-related products and markets by offering help in a number of areas including process validation, regulatory, technology integration, market development, sales and marketing, promotion and networking, international markets, and company development.
- One of its most important roles is to help companies find real-world health environments for field-testing their innovations such as in the Medical Ward of the 21st Century, Calgary and the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Edmonton.

What industry sector does the initiative support?

- The initiative supports the acceleration of health technology companies that offer products in the broad range of healthcare delivery services spanning from primary care to allied health, primarily for innovations that embrace the collection, storage, transmission and/or analysis of data. Examples of these health technology solutions include e-home care, robotics, wireless and mobile devices, sensor devices, tele-health, and electronic health records.
- The initiative strives to avoid duplication with other initiatives and is not designed to aid in the development of drug-related products, medical protocols and procedures in the biotechnology or pharma sectors, unless they are enabled by or coupled with a health technology product.

Why is this initiative needed?

- The delivery of health care faces unprecedented and complex challenges including rising costs, an aging population, a shift from treatment of acute illnesses to management of chronic diseases and health professional shortages. New health technologies can become an enabler of change and one solution to these challenges.

How is this initiative different from other innovation support organizations?

- Each support organization in Alberta’s research and innovation system plays a unique and collaborative role in helping entrepreneurs bring their high-tech products to market.
- The Alberta Innovates Connector Service provides general information and referrals to advanced technology programs and services offered by innovation support organizations throughout the research and innovation system.
- Business development centres like Calgary Technologies or TEC Edmonton offer general business advice and training for development of a broad range of advanced technology innovations or rental space in a tech-friendly environment.
- Biovantage—Alberta Ingenuity Centre identifies and supports the development of high potential commercially viable biomedical technologies across the biomedical engineering spectrum and translates those to local companies or new spin-off companies. Biovantage also generates and nurtures the local BME industry cluster through the creation of an attractive environment for BME product development.
- Clinexus offers sector-specific business advice and training for development of health technology companies. This includes helping spin-off companies from Biovantage, giving them the tools they need to really take their performance to the next level.

Where is Clinexus located?

- The Clinexus initiative operates from two offices. Its southern office is located in the Medical Ward of 21st Century, Teaching, Research and Wellness Building, University of Calgary, Calgary. Its northern office is located at the Glenrose Hospital, Edmonton.