IDENTIFYING INFORMATION	
Name:	**Hospital patients who require an alternate level of care**
Calculation:	Percentage of acute care inpatient days classified as Alternate Level of Care (ALC) days = $\left(\frac{\text{Total number of acute care inpatient ALC days}}{\text{Total number of acute care inpatient days}}\right) \times 100$ Metric: Percentage of acute care inpatient days classified as ALC days
Description:	**ALC**: A patient is classified as an ALC patient if they are occupying an acute or sub-acute hospital bed, and they do not require the intensity of resources and/or services provided in that care setting; however, they do require an alternate level of care, so they cannot be discharged home. **Beds included for ALC classification:** ▪ Acute care beds ▪ Mental health beds ▪ Rehabilitation beds ▪ Sub-acute care beds ▪ Transition beds
Data source:	AHS Provincial Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)
Assumptions:	None
Exclusions:	Inpatients are excluded if they do require acute care resources and/or services.
Limitations:	1. While in the hospital, there is a period of assessment to see whether a patient qualifies as requiring an alternate level of care. At the end of the assessment period an 'approval' is issued to proceed with determining an appropriate placement for the patient. This process may take several days. ALC days are counted from the date of 'approval,' thus underestimating the total number of ALC days attributed to each patient and, by extension, the hospital. 2. ALC days are based on a retrospective count from the DAD data source. Therefore, the measure should be interpreted as the percentage of hospital beds that were occupied by an ALC patient *discharged* within the reported time period. The consequences of this are, for example, if a new continuing care facility opens there will be an increase in the number of ALC patients discharged from acute care. This means that the numerator (total number of acute care inpatient ALC days) increases, consequently resulting in a higher %ALC. This gives the artificial impression that ALC days were more of a problem during that time period than they really were.

Alberta Health Services, Analytics. “Provincial ALC Statistics.” (2024) [Dashboard showing monthly and quarterly results for the percentage of time a hospital’s beds are occupied by patients who require an alternate level of care, by zone and facility]. *AHS Tableau Reporting Platform.* Retrieved from https://tableau.ahs.ca