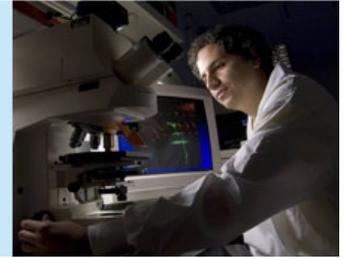




RESEARCH SUCCESSES



[Home](#) | [Featured Stories \(on homepage\)](#) | [CAHO CCR ARTIC Project empowers nurse champions maximizing Emergency Department resources](#) >

ADOPTING RESEARCH TO
IMPROVE CARE (ARTIC)

RESEARCH SUCCESSES

CAHO CCR ARTIC Project empowers nurse champions maximizing Emergency Department resources



The CAHO community includes some of the best and brightest working on the development and implementation of innovative research to improve the quality of patient care and benefit the entire health care system. From this work, leaders emerge to motivate and build sustainable communities of practice.

As leaders and champions are chosen, they have the ability to motivate their teams and produce great results. One example of the CAHO community creating champions can be found in the emergency department (ED) at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) as the ED nurses continue their progress with the implementation of the CAHO Canadian-C-Spine Rule (CCR) ARTIC Project.

Launched in 2010, the CAHO Canadian C-Spine Rule (CCR) ARTIC Project is a clinical decision rule that was developed by Dr. Ian Stiell at The Ottawa Hospital which allows clinicians to 'clear' the cervical spine without the need for an x-ray and to decrease immobilization times. The CAHO CCR ARTIC Project aims to optimize resources through the use of interprofessional teams, allowing for specially trained nurses to assess patients using the Canadian C-Spine Rule, and potentially decrease emergency department wait times and increase patient satisfaction by quickly and effectively identifying patients who do not require immobilization.

"I really commend the nurse champions in London for the superb job they've done implementing and leading this project in their emergency department," said Maureen Lowe, CAHO CCR ARTIC Project Coordinator, and Registered Nurse at The Ottawa Hospital. "To me, nurse champions are vital to any project. They are the experts at their hospitals, they help us sustain our project and serve as role models to motivate and develop the skills of their colleagues."

Over the course of one year, the CCR team at LHSC has excelled assessing 600 patients, having one of the top c-spine assessment rates amongst participating hospitals. The CAHO CCR ARTIC Project now has 304 nurses training for certification in Phase I and 113 nurses in Phase II, who are certified, allowing for the ability to assess and remove the C-collar off patients who are immobilized across nine hospitals within the CAHO community.

"We knew we would excel at this," says Alison Armstrong, Nurse Champion and Clinical Educator at LHSC. "I was putting fuel to a fire that was already burning. Our nurses are great at what they do and this project recognizes the value of emergency department nurses while improving patient flow and care in the department. The fact that this project is the first in the world, and that we are one of the first groups to execute it, is an exceptional



Archives

[2012](#)
[2011](#)

opportunity for us within the group of nurses participating in the CAHO CCR ARTIC Project.”

Behind the scenes at LHSC, ED nurses working on the CAHO CCR ARTIC Project are quickly winning over colleagues. “Now we are at the point where our physicians are advocating on our behalf to other staff within the hospital about the effectiveness of the CCR Project,” says Armstrong. “This has been a terrific opportunity to reinforce the safety of the clinical rule to our medical team but also proof that our nurses have the capacity to undertake more responsibility in a safe and reliable manner.”

The development of Nurse Champions within the CAHO ARTIC Program has a positive impact on the health care system, and to the CAHO community. “The CCR Champion is a good visual reminder for staff,” says Sandi Rusek, Nurse Champion for the CAHO CCR ARTIC Project at LHSC. “As a champion, being available to help coach nurses through their assessments reinforces to the patients there’s solid education and research behind this and staff take this as an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the project. We have noticed physician and resident documentation reflect the CCR nurse documentation, and, for us, this is a great step forward to not only see acceptance of the clinical rule, but it shows the value of nurses in the health care system.”

“As we continue to show the progress made in our hospitals, it’s clear our nurses are making a difference to the health care system and to improving patient care,” said Lowe. “Our nurses are now able to clear patients without waiting for a physician, speeding up the delivery of health care, in a safe and reliable manner, which allows them to focus on patient comfort and flow within the rest of the emergency department. This project frees up resources, time and has the patient at the centre of the care being delivered.”

[< Previous Entry](#)

[Next Entry >](#)
