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Building an Evidence Implementation Pathway to Increase the Quality and Efficiency of Transitions in Patient Care – CAHO Announces 2012 ARTIC Projects

The Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario (CAHO) is pleased to announce two new Adopting Research to Improve Care (ARTIC) Projects.

The CAHO ARTIC Program is a catalytic initiative of Ontario's 24 research hospitals to help build an evidence implementation pathway across our health care system to improve the quality and efficiency of patient care. In 2010, the CAHO community recognized a significant need in the Ontario health care system to facilitate the successful and rapid adoption of innovation into the practice of health care.

In 2011, recognizing the success of the program and alignment with the *Excellent Care for All* Strategy, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) became an active partner to help grow the CAHO ARTIC Program. "The partnership between CAHO and MOHLTC leverages the combined health innovation leadership of Ontario's research hospitals for the benefit of our healthcare system," said Dr. Barry McLellan, President and CEO of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and CAHO Chair.

The 2012 CAHO ARTIC projects support the coordination and continuity of health care patients/clients transfer between different care locations or different services within the same location; with the goal of improving quality. These projects will implement evidence that will lead to reduced hospital stays, reduced readmission rates and improved quality of care. The successful CAHO ARTIC Projects are:

- **CAHO Implementing the Transitional Discharge Model (TDM) ARTIC Project** aims to implement the TDM in a number of diverse hospital programs throughout Ontario to reduce the length of stay, readmission rates and improve the quality of patient care for people diagnosed with a mental illness. Led by Dr. Cheryl Forchuk from the Lawson Health Research Institute, 9 CAHO members will participate in the program.

- **CAHO Implementing an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) Guideline to Optimize Outcomes following Colorectal Surgery ARTIC Project** uses an innovative knowledge translation strategy to implement a range of interventions that aim to improve colorectal surgery patient outcomes and reduce hospital stay. Led by Dr. Robin McLeod from Mount Sinai Hospital, 12 CAHO Members will participate in the program.

"Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care is committed to delivering the right care for patients; evidence-based care improves patient outcomes and helps us manage health care costs," said the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. "I'm pleased to partner with Ontario's research hospitals on the CAHO ARTIC Program projects being launched today, so together we can deliver high quality and innovative care to Ontarians."

"We are pleased to have selected two new CAHO ARTIC Projects that address a priority of improving transitions in care," said Karen Michell, Executive Director of CAHO. "Both of these projects speak to the collaborative effort of the CAHO community and are consistent with our mission to drive innovation for a healthier and wealthier Ontario."

The two new projects were selected from among 25 that applied to the CAHO ARTIC Program. Projects were assessed based on their high potential system impact, robust research evidence and a feasible implementation plan.

"We can increase the quality and efficiency of care dramatically for people with mental health problems by using evidence-based approaches to collaboration and coordination between hospitals and community supports," said Dr. Cheryl Forchuk, Project Lead, Lawson Health Research Institute. "We are looking forward to working with the CAHO ARTIC Program as it will accelerate the implementation of TDM across several hospitals, increasing efficiency and improving the care we provide."

"As we develop guidelines, we need an evidence-informed model to standardizing pre- and post-operative approaches across complex multidisciplinary teams of hospital professionals," said Dr. Robin McLeod, Project lead, Mount Sinai Hospital. "Working with the CAHO ARTIC Program, we want the ERAS guidelines to reduce patient complications after surgery and shorten the length of hospital stays for patients."

The launch of the newest CAHO ARTIC Projects will bring the total number of projects to six. The remaining CAHO ARTIC Projects focus on a variety of issues that hospitals encounter on a daily basis. These projects include developing a clinical decision rule allowing clinicians to 'clear' the cervical spine without the need for an x-ray, assessing hand hygiene compliance removing the need for manual transcription, minimizing the resistance of antimicrobial medication in intensive unit care patients and promoting early and consistent mobility for seniors as they receive care in hospitals to prevent future readmission.

Fast Facts about Ontario's 24 Research Hospitals:

Ontario's research hospitals are world-class researchers, driving a health innovation engine that creates better and more efficient care for patients. CAHO members:

- Conduct over 80% of Ontario's publicly funded health research.
- Represent the 4th largest biomedical research centre in North America.
- Employ 10,000 researchers.
- Train more than 80% of undergraduate medical students, 90% of Ontario's medical residents and 99% of Ontario's clinical fellows.
- Train over 20,000 students every year across all disciplines, including nursing, pharmacy, social work, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.
- Provide 65% of the most complex and resource intensive care in Ontario.
- Conduct 100% of transplants, 83% of neurosurgeries, and 78% of cardiac surgeries in Ontario

Backgrounder:

[CAHO ARTIC Program Overview](#)

About CAHO

The Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario is the non-profit association of Ontario's 24 academic hospitals and their research institutes. CAHO provides a focal point for strategic initiatives on behalf of our member hospitals. As research intensive hospitals, CAHO members are fully affiliated with a university medical or health sciences faculty. Our hospitals provide the most complex and urgent care, teach the next generation of health care providers and foster health care innovation derived from discovery research. For more information, visit caho-hospitals.com

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