The Atlantic Healthcare Collaboration for Innovation and Improvement in Chronic Disease

A three-year cross-provincial initiative to improve chronic disease

The Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI) along with 17 regional health authorities and the support of four Atlantic provincial Health departments is taking an unprecedented approach to address healthcare priorities across the region.

CFHI is proud to be providing hands-on support for the implementation of self-management approaches, clinical practice guidelines and other healthcare improvements, as well as for performance management and evaluation of the improvement work.
By engaging policy, organizational, clinical and front-line healthcare professionals, as well as an esteemed group of expert advisors and mentors, the collaboration is taking on 10 improvement projects focused on mental health, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Eight of the 17 health authorities are directing improvement projects within their province.

Newfoundland & Labrador

Central Health
Improving processes of care for patients living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Goal: develop and implement a COPD program to include health promotion, education and the uptake of clinical practice guidelines across the system.

Team Leads: Valerie Pritchett, Director for Cardiopulmonary Services; Sarah French-Randell, CDPM Consultant; Jessica Ruth, Regional Self-Management and Support Coordinator.

Eastern Regional Health Authority
Supporting integrated management and clinical care for people with diabetes

Goal: improve the navigation system for diabetes patients, advance adoption of the clinical practice guidelines, and strengthen collaboration at key transition points.

Team Leads: Karen Milley, Interim Regional Director, Home & Community Care; Janet Fisher, Primary Health Care Manager.

Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority
Community-centered Mental Health Care and Suicide Prevention in Central and Northern Labrador

Goal: prevent suicide and improve the continuum of care for mental health problems and suicidality. Develop community-specific suicide prevention and mental health promotion programs. The team will be working with community leaders, hospital-based service providers, elders, and youth. The Innu Nation, the Nunatsiavut Government, and Memorial University are partners.

Team Leads: Nathaniel Pollack, PhD Candidate – Memorial University; Michael Jong, VP Medical Services.

Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority
Living Actively in Managing Diabetes: Implementing self-management approaches to diabetes care

Goal: improve primary care and community interventions for diabetes and related complications among high-risk Aboriginal populations. Memorial University’s Faculty of Medicine and Labrador Grenfell Health will manage project in collaboration with the Nunatsiavut Government’s Department of Health and Social Development, NunatuKavut and the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation.

Team Leads: Dr. Margo Wilson, Physician – Labrador Health Centre; Michael Jong, VP Medical Services.

Western Health
Improving Self-management Support within Regional Diabetes Teams

Goal: complete a baseline audit of seven local diabetes teams currently supporting patient self-management to identify priority areas for improvement and later measure the impact of these improvements. The team will use the Expanded Chronic Care Model (ECCM) for its assessment.

Team Leads: Darla King, Manager of Chronic Disease Prevention and Management; Tammy Priddle, Project Coordinator – New Acute Care Facility; Michelle House, VP, Population Health.

New Brunswick

Vitalité Health Network
Primary Healthcare Reform: Implementing interdisciplinary models of care

Goal: integrate primary care services that respond to specific population needs in all 15 Vitalité communities; align these with the provincial strategies for improving primary healthcare outcomes and encourage community engagement.

Team Lead: Suzanne Robichaud, Manager, Vitalité Health Network.
Horizon Health Network
Implementation of a Community Based Young Adult Mental Health Engagement and Education Initiative – PEER 126

Goal: improve, restore, promote and maintain the emotional health and well-being of young adults 16-29 years of age. It will provide information to identify gaps in care within the current system, to improve services, and share lessons learned across the province and elsewhere for developing similar recovery model sites for mental health patients.

Team Leads: Kim Chenier, Program Coordinator – Mental Health Recovery Services.

Nova Scotia
Capital District Health Authority
Assessing the feasibility of implementing an integrated Chronic Disease Prevention Management (CDPM) strategy at Capital Health

Goal: assess the feasibility of integrating and enhancing CDPM strategies at Capital Health. The first phase includes a review and analysis of current CDPM programs at Capital Health to identify barriers and opportunities for improvement. Phase two will implement identified pilot CDPM improvements and plans for organization-wide adoption.

Team Leads: Tara Sampalli, Assistant Director of Research, Primary Health Care; Lynn Edwards, Health Services Director of Primary Care; Rick Gibson, Chief - District Department of Family Practice.

Prince Edward Island
Health PEI
Reducing Preventable Hospitalizations for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs)

Goal: develop effective interventions and support strategies for patients to prevent readmissions that are potentially avoidable. Focus will be placed on improving the transitions between patients' experience with acute and primary care services.

Team Leads: Pat Charlton, Manager – Chronic Disease Prevention and Management.

Health PEI
Spreading a “Minimal Intervention” Approach to Care

Goal: help healthcare professionals work more effectively with patients in the co-design of treatments and care. Spread patient-centered approaches that promote self-efficacy and are less prescriptive.

Team Leads: Donna MacAusland, Primary Health Care Program Development Lead.

“Our government is committed to improving the health of Canadians and to make sure they receive the best care possible. The funding that we provide through the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement is proof of that commitment. This initiative, in collaboration with the Atlantic provinces, will result in better treatment for Canadians with chronic diseases such as diabetes, mental health and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.”

—Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health
The Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to healthcare improvement and transformation for Canadians. CFHI collaborates with governments, policy-makers and health system leaders to convert evidence and innovative practices into actionable policies, programs, tools and leadership development. CFHI is funded through an agreement with the Government of Canada. To learn more, visit: cfhi-fcass.ca