

## **Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement & Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. Partnership Backgrounder**

In September 2014, the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI) and Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. (BICL) formed a partnership to improve Canadian lives by supporting quality improvement teams to improve the care and treatment of people living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). COPD is a chronic respiratory illness that is the primary reason for hospitalization in Canada. Together, CFHI and BICL supported 19 teams across Canada to adapt and adopt the INSPIRED COPD Outreach Program™ through the INSPIRED Approaches to COPD: Improving Care and Creating Value Collaborative. The INSPIRED collaborative is part of CFHI's Spreading Healthcare Innovations Initiative.

The INSPIRED collaborative supported teams to:

- enhance the delivery of patient- and family-centred care
- practice evidence-based guidelines and appropriate care for patients living with advanced COPD
- coordinate and optimize transitions in care from hospital to community settings
- reduce emergency department visits and hospital admissions, while enhancing the overall quality of care experience

CFHI, with financial support from BICL, provided seed funding of up to \$50,000 to each of the 19 sites to support the direct costs related to adapting and implementing the INSPIRED model of care, as well as to free up the time of staff involved to participate in learning about this approach and evaluating its impacts.

CFHI assumed responsibility for designing, delivering and evaluating the INSPIRED collaborative. Over the course of 12 months, CFHI supported teams with more than 25 educational webinars, an in-person workshop and four regional roundtables, all of which combined curriculum and expertise in evidence-based medicine and quality improvement. CFHI also provided necessary improvement tools, team-based coaching and opportunities for cross-team learning, all supported by CFHI staff and its international faculty of clinicians and improvement experts.

BICL supported the collaborative and its associated activities with \$1.1 million in direct funding to CFHI, as well as assistance from their Healthcare Affairs team who worked alongside many of the teams to provide hands-on project management support. In addition to allowing CFHI to fund more teams, BICL supported a number of regional receptions, celebrating and recognizing the successes of local teams; and making it possible for teams to reconvene at this year's Canadian Respiratory Conference in Halifax.

In addition, CFHI and BICL formed an in-kind partnership with VitalAire Canada Ltd. to offer additional human resources support to interested teams. This CFHI and BICL partnership demonstrates that industry and the public, not-for-profit sectors can improve the health and healthcare of Canadians by working together.