



HEALTH INNOVATIONS

NAME OF PRACTICE: Adopting Research to Improve Care Project (ARTIC)

JURISDICTION: Ontario

HEALTH THEME: Performance Management; Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

HEALTH SECTOR: (Acute care, Cancer care, Long-Term care, Primary care, Rehabilitation)

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 2010

SNAPSHOT: This innovative practice aims to integrate evidence-based research into the systematic improvement of health care service quality. The 'Adopting Research to Improve Care' Project (ARTIC) was launched through the network of the Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario (CAHO) in 2010 and has initiated six evidence implementation projects to date.

PRACTICE DESCRIPTION:

The Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario is a non-profit association involving 24 academic hospitals across Ontario. Each member hospital is directly affiliated with a university medical or health sciences faculty and focuses on the bridging of research and teaching to provide innovative and specialized patient care. Based on the Council's Strategic Plan for 2010-2015, the internal governance is structured to facilitate collaboration among experts and prioritize multidisciplinary leadership.

The projects below represent the six projects that have been implemented to date. Each project was selected after undergoing a rigorous research application process. In 2010, the ARTIC Projects were funded by the Council of Academic Hospitals in Ontario with each participating hospital providing in kind support and human resources. After recognizing the impact of these programs on systematic implementation of new evidence, CAHO received another \$6.3 million over three years, aligning with the Excellent Care for All Strategy (<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/ecfa/>).

2010-2011:

- 1) 'Handy Audit'—an innovative auditing tool that measures hand hygiene compliance in health care settings.
- 2) 'Canadian C-Spine Rule'—a clinical decision tool for emergency department nurses; designed to reduce wait times and approve appropriateness of care by identifying patients who do not require immobilization.

2011-2012:

- 3) 'Move-On'—an interprofessional approach to focus on mobilization of elderly patients staying in hospital.
- 4) 'Antimicrobial Stewardship Program'— the optimization of antimicrobial use in intensive care units.

2012-2013:

- 5) 'Transitional Discharge Model'— the support for successful transition from hospital to the community for people diagnosed with mental illness.
- 6) 'Implementing an Enhanced Recovery after Surgery'—a guideline to implement a range of interventions for patients undergoing colorectal surgery.



Affiliated hospitals and research institutes include: Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Baycrest Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Bruyère Continuing Care, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Hamilton Health Sciences, Health Science North, Hôpital Montfort, Hotel Dieu Hospital Kingston, Kingston General Hospital, Lawson Health Research Institute, London Health Sciences Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital, North York General Hospital, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Providence Care, Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, St. Joseph's Health Care London, St Michael's Hospital, Sudbury Regional Hospital, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, The Hospital for Sick Children, The Ottawa Hospital, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, University Health Network, and Women's College Hospital.

IMPACT:

As part of CAHO's mandate, each initiative under ARTIC has involved an integrated evaluation. To briefly summarize reports on the successes of the respective initiatives:

- 1) The 'Handy Audit' was completed as of December 2011 and 15 of the 16 participating hospitals have renewed their contracts with the Handy Metrics distribution company.
- 2) The 'Canadian C-Spine Rule' has passed testing for accuracy, reliability, and safety among triage nurses and has been widely adopted by emergency department physicians across member hospitals.
- 3) The impact of 'Move On' has not yet been publically shared but it is working collaboratively with 14 member hospitals and is expected to improve rates of regular mobilization in hospitalized of elderly patients (currently estimated at less than 30%).
- 4) The anticipated effect of the 'Antimicrobial Stewardship Program' will reduce antimicrobial use in intensive care units by 12-25% and reduce antimicrobial costs to the units by 23-41%; the program is currently participating with 12 collaborating health centres/hospitals.
- 5) In a study involving 4 psychiatric facilities, length of stay was reduced by an average of 116 days per client after the introduction of the 'Transitional Discharge Model'. This resulted in \$12 million worth of freed bed space from the 200 intervention group compared to the control group and \$4,400 of reduced consumption of hospital and emergency room services per person in year post discharge.
- 6) The 'Implementing an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery' project demonstrated a 50% decrease in postoperative complications and reduced average length of stay-postoperative care by 2 or more days.

APPLICABILITY/TRANSFERABILITY:

ARTIC is one of two broad-reaching partnerships working under the support of the Council of Academic Hospitals for Ontario. The other innovative partnership developed is the Physician Quality Improvement Initiative. This physician-led collaborative program involves all 24 of its member hospitals and provides an opportunity for physicians to share best practices, gain feedback performance, access tools for continuing professional development (<http://caho-hospitals.com/partnerships/physician-quality-improvement-initiative-pqii/>).

ARTIC is currently developing its Knowledge Translation tools in order to advance adoption of research evidence into practice to broader settings.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: Chris Paterson

Title: Director, Stakeholder Relations

Organization: Council of Academic Hospitals in Ontario

Information last updated on: October 31, 2013



Content has been adapted from the following sources and relevant links:

Council of Academic Hospitals in Ontario. (2013). Ontario Research Hospitals : Building a Healthier, Wealthier and Smarter Ontario. 2012-13 Annual Report

http://caho-hospitals.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/CAH-103-AR2013_Web.pdf

PRACTICE WEBSITE

<http://caho-hospitals.com/partnerships/adopting-research-to-improve-care-artic/>