

E-Bulletin

August 2006, Issue #15

The OHTAC E-bulletin is issued on a regular basis to provide you with updates on the latest committee recommendations. OHTAC has reviewed several health technologies and all its recommendations are available on the OHTAC Web site at

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/recommend/rec_mn.html

Should you have additional information about any of these technologies, please submit it to the Medical Advisory Secretariat (MAS) at the contact information found at the end of this bulletin.

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PORTABLE BLADDER ULTRASOUND

Issue

Bladder ultrasound products are portable ultrasound devices that use automated technology to digitally register bladder volume, including post-void residual (PVR) urine volume, and provide 3-D images of the bladder. The predominant clinical use of portable bladder ultrasound is by health professionals (predominantly nurses) who use the device to measure PVR in order to determine urinary retention. Urinary retention has been associated with poor outcomes including urinary tract infections, bladder overdistension, and higher hospital fatalities. Properly identifying urinary retention prevents unnecessary catheterization and subsequent urinary tract infections (UTI) in patients.

Key Findings

- It was found that the portable bladder ultrasound has acceptable levels of clinical utility.
- While not as accurate as catheterization, portable bladder ultrasound use was found to significantly decrease unnecessary catheterizations by 20-47% and UTIs were decreased by 38-50%.

**OHTAC
Recommendations**

- Providers should be formally trained in the use of portable bladder ultrasound to ensure accurate measurements.
- Portable bladder ultrasound has clinical utility in Complex Continuing Care and rehabilitation facilities for neurogenic bladder populations and in urology settings for urinary incontinence and urinary retention assessment.
- Hospitals should explore the utility of portable bladder ultrasound for acute and post-surgical care settings based on their population needs.

Implications

Incontinence is a common condition and often prompts admittance into Long-Term Care (LTC) institutions. In Ontario, over 80.5% of LTC residents report constant incontinence, and another 8.9% of residents report occasional incontinence. Diapering is preferred to catheterization due to convenience. And therefore, patients requiring catheter care are often not admitted to LTC facilities. The prevalence of urinary retention is estimated to be between 9 -11% in elderly patients, yet there is only a 2.8% catheterization rate among Ontario LTC residents. This suggests that there is room for improvement in the management of incontinence. Bladder ultrasound is recommended as a useful technology to facilitate appropriate care for patients with urinary retention.

The full downloadable version of the **Health Technology Policy Assessment** by the Medical Advisory Secretariat can be found at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_pbu_040106.pdf

The **OHTAC recommendation** for this technology can be found at the following link:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/recommend/rec_pbu_041806.pdf

OHTAC is envisaged as the first step in creating a single portal for providing advice to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the uptake, diffusion, and distribution for new health technologies. Find more about OHTAC, its application process, and its recommendations at the following Web site:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/ohtac_about.html.

TECHNOLOGIES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

• Cardiac positron emission tomography	• Routine Eye Exams
• Electroanatomic cardiac mapping and ablative techniques	• Sleep Disorder Clinics
• Intravascular coronary ultrasound	• Bone Densitometry
• Metal-on-metal Hip Resurfacing	• Energy delivery systems for treatment of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH).
• Implantable Cardioverter defibrillator	• In-Vitro Fertilization
• Gastric Electrical Stimulation	• Horizon Scanning: Nanotechnology
• Optimum Imaging Breast Technologies for Women 40-49 years of age—Modalities other than Mammography	• Diagnostic Imaging
• Breast Cancer Screening for Women 40-49 years of age--Mammography	• Optimal Health System Design for Screening
• Hydrophilic Catheters	• Magnetoencephalography (MEG)
• Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS)	• Methadone Compliance Testing
Integrated Health Technology Literature Reviews	
• Heart failure	
Literature Reviews Being Updated	
• Mid-Urethral Slings (February 2004)	• Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (December 2004)

PREVIOUS OHTAC RECOMMENDATIONS

• Artificial Disc Replacement for Lumbar and Cervical Degenerative Disc Disease http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_adr_040106.pdf	April 2006
• Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Environment Safety in Ontario http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/technology/tech_mri_040106.html	April 2006
• Extracorporeal Photophoresis (ECP) http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_ecp_030106.pdf	March 2006
• Enhanced External Counterpulsation (Update) http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_eecp_030106.pdf	March 2006
• Ultrasound Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_usaaa_010106.pdf	January 2006
• Coil Embolization for Intracranial Aneurysms (Update) http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_coil_010106.pdf	January 2006
• Automated External Defibrillators http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_aed_120105.pdf	December 2005
• Interim Report on Drug Eluting Stents http://www.path-hta.ca/DESreport.pdf	December 2005
• Endovascular Repair of Descending Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_thor_110105.pdf	November 2005

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• Air Cleaning Technologies http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_act_110105.pdf	November 2005
• Technologies for Osteoarthritis of the Knee (Integrated Health Technology Policy Assessment) http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_ostknee_100105.pdf	October 2005
• Biventricular Pacing (Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy) http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_biv_090105.pdf	September 2005
• Arthroscopic Lavage and Debridement http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_lavdeb_090105.pdf	September 2005
• Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Non-Healing Ulcers in Diabetes Mellitus http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_hypox_081105.pdf	August 2005
• Interim Report on Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (EVAR) http://www.path-hra.ca/EVAR%20Interim%20Report%20Jul%202005.pdf	July 2005
• Intra-Articular Viscosupplementation With Hylan G-F 20 To Treat Osteoarthritis of the Knee http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_hylan_061705.pdf	June 2005
• Total Knee Replacement http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_tkr_061705.pdf	June 2005
• Intrathecal Baclofen Pump for Spasticity http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_pump_081605.pdf	May 2005
• Osteogenic Protein-1 http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_osteo_070105.pdf	April 2005
• Multi-detector Computed Tomography Angiography for Coronary Artery Disease http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_multi_050105.pdf	April 2005
• Spinal Cord Stimulation for Neuropathic Pain http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_scs_030105.pdf	March 2005
• Sacral Nerve Stimulation for Urinary Incontinence, Urgency-Frequency, Urinary Retention, and Fecal Incontinence http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_sns_030105.pdf	March 2005
• Deep Brain Stimulation in Parkinson's Disease and Other Movement Disorders http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_dbs_030105.pdf	March 2005
• Bariatric Surgery http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_baria_010105.pdf	January 2005
• Vacuum Assisted Closure Therapy for Chronic Wounds http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_vac_120104.pdf	December 2004
• Balloon Kyphoplasty http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_kypho_120104.pdf	December 2004
• Thermal Balloon Endometrial Ablation for Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_tbea_090104.pdf	October 2004
• Primary Angioplasty http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_bis_060104.pdf	September 2004
• Bispectral Index Monitor http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_bis_060104.pdf	August 2004
• Radio Frequency Ablation for Primary Liver Cancer http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_rfa_060104.pdf	June 2004
• Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Major Depressive Disorder http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_rtms_060104.pdf	June 2004
• Coil Embolization For Intracranial Aneurysms http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_coil_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Pyrocarbon Finger Joint Implant http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_pyrocarb_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Video Laryngoscopy for Tracheal Intubation http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_vidlaryng_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Bone Morphogenetic Proteins and Spinal Surgery for Degenerative Disc Disease http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_bmp_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Artificial Discs for Cervical and Lumbar Spinal Surgery for Degenerative Disease http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_artdisc_030104.pdf	March 2004

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| • Computer-Assisted Hip and Knee Arthroplasty: Navigation and Robotic Systems
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_arthro_020104.pdf | March 2004 |
| • Computer-Assisted Surgery Using Telesurgery
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_teleman_020104.pdf | March 2004 |
| • Tension-free Vaginal Tape for Stress Urinary Incontinence
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_tvt_020104.pdf | February 2004 |
| • Patient Monitoring System for MRI
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_patmri_120103.pdf | February 2004 |

For any comments related to this E-bulletin, please contact the Medical Advisory Secretariat at:

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