



ONTARIO HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE & THE MEDICAL ADVISORY SECRETARIAT

About this E-Bulletin

This monthly e-bulletin is designed to keep you up-to-date on the research and reporting activities of Health Quality Ontario's Medical Advisory Secretariat (MAS) and the work of the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC).

Where to Find It

To read all new materials from MAS and OHTAC, be sure to visit the "What's New" section of our [website](#). To subscribe to the e-bulletin, write to info@hqontario.ca.

Questions and Comments

We welcome your questions and comments. You can write to MAS at MASinfo@hqontario.ca and OHTAC at OHTACinfo@hqontario.ca.

E-BULLETIN, November 2011

WHAT'S NEW

Transitioning to HQO

The [Excellent Care for All Act](#) lays the groundwork for two significant shifts in healthcare policy - a move to evidence-based care and a new patient-based payment system - along with the creation of Health Quality Ontario (HQO). As of April 4, 2011, HQO brings together under one roof the former Ontario Health Quality Council and five other organizations and programs - MAS, OHTAC, the Ontario Health Technology Evaluation Fund, the Centre for Healthcare Quality Improvement and the Quality Improvement and Innovation Partnership. As part of HQO, MAS and OHTAC will continue to provide evidence and recommendations on health technologies, and OHTAC will become a committee of the organization's Board of Directors. For the time being, evidenced-based reviews by MAS and OHTAC recommendations will continue to be available on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's website at www.health.gov.on.ca/ohtas until the web pages are transitioned to HQO's site.

Change in Leadership at OHTAC

In October 2011, Dr. Charles J. Wright became OHTAC's Acting Chair. Dr. Wright, a long-time member of OHTAC, is a Consultant in Medical and Academic Affairs and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology at the University of British Columbia. The Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee would like to thank Dr. William Shragge for his exceptional leadership as Chair of OHTAC for the past two years and for his contribution to moving forward a cultural shift to an evidence-based framework for health care decision-making and policy development in Ontario. His thoughtful insights, patience, farsightedness and ability to achieve consensus and accurate, reasoned recommendations have been much appreciated by all members of OHTAC and MAS and will be missed.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Sharing Ontario's Expertise in Evidence-Based Decision-Making Internationally

Dr. Les Levin, Head of the MAS, is a plenary speaker at the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 14th Annual European Congress on November 7, 2011 in Madrid, Spain. The session, which is being moderated by, Xavier Badia, Global Leader, Observational COE and Senior Principal, Health Economics and Outcomes Research, IMS Health, Barcelona, Spain, will focus on *"The Reality of Real World Data and its Use in Health Care Decisions in Europe."* Other speakers will include Patrick Keohane, Vice President, Payer Evidence, AstraZeneca, Södertälje, Sweden; and, Enrique Bernal-Delgado, Head, Health Services Research and Health Policy Unit (ARiHS), Health Research Institute of Aragón (IIS), Co-Chair, Atlas of Variations in Medical Practice in Spain and Scientific Coordinator, ECHO Project, Zaragoza, Spain.

[To find out more...](#)

New Reports from MAS & OHTAC

The following MAS reports and OHTAC recommendations have been completed since the last e-bulletin was published in March 2011 and are available for download as part of the *Ontario Health Technology Assessment Series*:

[Endovascular Radiofrequency Ablation for Varicose Veins](#)

[Diurnal Tension Curves for Assessing the Development or Progression of Glaucoma](#)

[Clinical utility of serologic testing for celiac disease in asymptomatic patients](#)

[Continuous Glucose Monitoring for Patients with Diabetes](#)

In the Works: Evidentiary Framework and Evidence-Based Analyses of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Interventions

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is the fourth leading cause of death in Canada and a leading cause of morbidity. In July 2010, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) asked MAS to provide evidence about the clinical and cost-effectiveness of various treatment interventions for COPD.

After an initial review and in consultation with experts, MAS identified the following topics for review: influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations; smoking cessation; multidisciplinary care; pulmonary rehabilitation and maintenance programs following pulmonary rehabilitation; long-term oxygen therapy; ventilation for acute and chronic respiratory failure; hospital-at-home care for acute exacerbations; and, telemedicine (including telemonitoring and telephone support).

The Medical Advisory Secretariat completed evidence-based

reviews for each technology and, where appropriate, economic analyses were prepared by its research collaborator the Programs for Assessment of Technology in Health (PATH) Research Institute. The MAS report, along with OHTAC's recommendations about these COPD interventions, was posted on the OHTAC website for public comment in October 2011. The final reports and recommendations are expected to be posted in February 2012.

New Research Underway

Several important evidence-based reviews, mega-analyses and field evaluations are currently underway:

- Study of Improving Multiple Infusion Line Safety
- Intermediate Care
- 24-hr Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring Device for Hypertension
- Constraint Induced Movement Therapy for Rehabilitation of Arm Dysfunction after Stroke in Adults
- Corneal Collagen Cross-Linking Using Riboflavin and Ultraviolet-A for Corneal Thinning Disorders
- Internet-Based Device-Assisted Remote Monitoring of Cardiovascular Implantable Electronic Devices

Click [here](#) to find out more

Join Us at the Leading Healthcare Quality Summit & Innovations Expo

The MOHLTC, the Ontario Hospital Association and HQO have come together for the first time to host the [Leading Healthcare Quality Summit & Innovations Expo](#).

Registration is now open and there's no charge to participate.

Wednesday, November 9, 2011
 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Metro Toronto Convention Centre
 Exhibit Hall C (North Building)
 255 Front Street West
 Toronto, ON M5V 2W6

