



About this E-Bulletin

This monthly e-bulletin is published by Health Quality Ontario (HQQ). It is designed to keep you up-to-date on the research and reporting activities of HQO's Evidence Development and Standards Team (formerly the Medical Advisory Secretariat) and the work of the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC).

Where to Find It

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

Questions and Comments

We welcome your questions and comments. You can write to Evidence Development and Standards Team at MASinfo@hqontario.ca and OHTAC at OHTACinfo@hqontario.ca.

Making Evidence Relevant | May 2012

Posted for Public Comment: Specialized Community-Based Care (Intermediate Care)

Specialized community-based care refers to services for people with chronic illness that are provided through formalized links between primary and specialized care. Another term for specialized community-based care is intermediate care. HQO conducted a comprehensive evidence-based analysis of specialized community-based care that includes the following activities:

- Reviewing the literature on intermediate care for chronic diseases
- Synthesizing the evidence from four previous analyses by HQO on specialized community-based care in treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart failure, diabetes and chronic wounds
- Examining the role of intermediate care within family practice

For this body of research, OHTAC is making recommendations in four parts. This first recommendation focuses on heart failure and includes standards of care for heart failure clinics across Ontario. The draft evidence-based analysis and OHTAC recommendations are [now posted for public comment](#) for a period of 21 days.

HQO Posts Final Research and Recommendations on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

HQO has completed a mega-analysis that examines multiple interventions for the treatment of COPD. The final research reports and OHTAC recommendations have now been posted as part of the [Ontario Health Technology Assessment Series](#).

HQO reviewed the following interventions for the treatment of COPD: vaccinations (influenza and pneumococcal); smoking cessation; multidisciplinary care; pulmonary rehabilitation and

maintenance programs; long-term oxygen therapy; noninvasive positive pressure ventilation for acute and chronic respiratory failure; hospital-at-home for acute exacerbations of COPD; and telemedicine (including tele-monitoring and telephone support). Evidence-based analyses were prepared for each of these topics and, where appropriate, an economic analysis was also completed.

In addition, a systematic review of the empirical qualitative literature on patient, caregiver and provider perspectives about living and dying with COPD and experiences with each of the technologies was conducted by the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA) at McMaster University. The Toronto Health Economics and Technology Assessment (THETA) Collaborative produced an associated report on patient preference for mechanical ventilation entitled *Quantitative Preference-Related Evidence into HTA: The Case of Ventilation for COPD*. [Read the report.](#)

We've Moved!

April was another busy month for HQO as we celebrated our first anniversary and the relocation of the Evidence Development and Standards team (formerly the Medical Advisory Secretariat) from their offices at Yonge and Dundas to HQO corporate headquarters. Bringing everyone together in one location will make it easier for HQO staff to work in partnership, leverage diverse skills and catalyze system transformation.

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