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About this bulletin

This bulletin is published by Health Quality Ontario ([HQO](#)) to update you on the work of its Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee ([OHTAC](#)), Evidence Development and Standards ([EDS](#)) branch and research collaborators.

Questions and comments

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Open for Comment

HQO has posted draft OHTAC recommendations and research reports (on the [topics listed below](#)) for public comment. These initiatives are among many underway at HQO to accelerate the use of evidence, improve quality and support transformation in Ontario's health care system. Please forward this bulletin to any individual or organization that you think may be interested in reviewing this work.

Optimizing Chronic Disease Management in the Community (Outpatient) Setting (OCDM)

In support of [Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care](#), HQO is exploring ways to reduce inappropriate hospitalizations and improve chronic disease management for high-need patients with complex conditions. HQO has completed a mega-analysis on OCDM, which was guided by an expert panel chaired by Shirlee Sharkey, President and CEO of St. Elizabeth Home Health Care and Vice Chair of the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC). The mega-analysis was conducted by the OHTAC OCDM Collaborative comprised of HQO's Evidence Development and Standards branch, the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA), Programs for Assessment of Technology in Health (PATH) Research Institute and the Toronto Health Economics and Technology Assessment (THETA) Collaborative.

This research is the first attempt by any jurisdiction to develop a broad, evidence-based platform to help decision-makers know where and how to invest in community-based health services.

Photoselective Vaporization for the Treatment of Benign Hyperplasia of the Prostate

The Programs for Assessment of Health Technology (PATH) Research Institute, one of HQO's scientific collaborators, has completed a field evaluation study that compares photoselective vaporization and transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) for the treatment of lower urinary tract symptoms caused by benign prostatic hyperplasia - a non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate gland. The study compares the effectiveness, safety, cost-effectiveness and budgetary impact of the two procedures.

Deep Brain Stimulation for Treatment-Resistant Depression

HQO's Evidence Development and Standards branch has completed a preliminary evidence review to assess the effectiveness of Deep Brain Stimulation for Treatment-Resistant Depression. The Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee has reviewed the research and made related recommendations. The draft review and recommendations are now posted on HQO's website.

