

MAKING EVIDENCE RELEVANT

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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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The Following Draft Reports and Recommendations are Posted for Comment:

Preliminary Evaluation of Robotic-Assisted Minimally Invasive Radical Prostatectomy in Ontario

Due to a lack of Ontario-specific evidence on the effectiveness and complication rates for robotic-assisted radical prostatectomy (RARP) for the treatment of prostate cancer, Health Quality Ontario's (HQO's) Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC) requested that the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) conduct a field evaluation with the following objective:

- To describe the rates of major surgical complications and outcomes among patients who had RARP compared to those who had other forms of radical prostatectomy, including laparoscopic or open prostatectomy.

The data confirmed that even in the absence of empirical, contextualized evidence, there has been gradual uptake of RARP in Ontario. The results revealed that men having RARP for prostate cancer in Ontario had better surgical outcomes than men having radical prostatectomy by other methods. Based on the evidence, OHTAC is recommending the establishment of a Provincial Steering Committee on robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery to provide advice and monitor key performance indicators. [Click here to find out more](#)

Evaluation of a Chronic Disease Management System for the Treatment and Management of Diabetes in Primary Health Care Practices in Ontario

Acting on OHTAC's recommendation, HQO's research partner, the Programs for the Assessment of Technology in Health (PATH) Research Institute, designed and implemented a field evaluation to assess the effectiveness of a web-based, computerized chronic disease management decision-support system for the treatment and management of diabetes. This community-based, real-world evaluation failed to demonstrate an impact on physician practice due to limited use of the technology by primary care providers. Among other things, OHTAC recommends "further, controlled evaluations of these types of electronic tools, and consideration of how they will operate and integrate with existing e-health technologies." [Click here to find out more](#)