

Provincial Falls Prevention Project

Communiqué #2

March 15, 2011

INTRODUCTION

This communiqué is the second in a series of communiqués that will be distributed to health system partners including the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), Community Care Access Centres (CCAC), Hospitals, Long Term Care (LTC), Mental Health & Addictions (MH&A), Community Health Centres (CHC), Community Support Services (CSS), Public Health Units (PHUs), Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport (MOHPS), Ontario Agency of Health Promotion and Protection (OAHPP), Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), Ontario Medical Association (OMA), Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP), Neurotrauma Foundation and Regional Geriatric Programs (RGP) of Ontario regarding progress and outcomes of the Provincial Falls Prevention Mobilization Committee.

PROGRESS UPDATE

As planned, the seven of the 14 LHINs that have a multi-sector and/or a LHIN wide falls prevention program were surveyed and interviewed to understand each LHIN's program in depth, identify key success factors, collect additional best or leading practices and obtain feedback regarding the draft suggested framework proposed by the Mobilization Committee. Selection of those particular LHINs to be surveyed was based on literature review findings which state that effective falls prevention programs are often coordinated, community wide and involve comprehensive and inclusive partnerships. Subject matter experts from Ontario and BC were also interviewed to collect leading practices related to falls prevention.

Provincial Falls Prevention Project Overview

The Provincial Falls Prevention Project was initiated in November 2010 as a LHIN priority project. This project is led by the LHINs in partnership with public health and brings health system partners together to improve the quality of life and well being of seniors through prevention of falls and fall-related injuries. This partnership between LHINs and public health is the first of its kind at this level and thus will serve as a template for future province wide collaboration between the two sectors. The Provincial Falls Prevention Project aligns with the MOHLTC and LHIN focus on improving Access to Care by addressing the high rates of ALC and ED visits through reducing falls in the elderly.

As part of this project, a Falls Prevention Mobilization Committee was established to bring together the LHINs, their HSPs, PHUs and primary care to formulate an "Ontario Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit" that will assist all parties in implementing effective falls prevention initiatives across the province. As many successful projects are already underway, the aim is to leverage existing services to optimize resources and avoid duplication. As such, the Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit will not be one-size-fits-all; rather it will be a collection of a wide range of successful falls prevention practices from across Ontario and other jurisdictions. Phase I of this project will end with the release of the toolkit in the summer of 2011. Phase II of the project will be on the implementation of the toolkit and includes formulating an implementation plan to support the LHINs and Public Health Units in implementing the toolkit, monitoring implementation progress and evaluating falls prevention interventions post implementation.

FALLS PREVENTION MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

The Falls Prevention Mobilization Committee met for the second time on Tuesday March 15, 2011. During this meeting, the committee discussed in depth three elements of the draft falls prevention framework: Governance, Evaluation and Assessment & Intervention (See Figure 1 below). Discussions included questions and comments related to the survey and interview findings presented as well as feedback and input into the proposed draft recommendations. The Committee suggested that the framework include additional considerations including person perspective and sustainability. The framework depicted below is a work in progress and will be continually discussed and modified by the Committee as necessary.

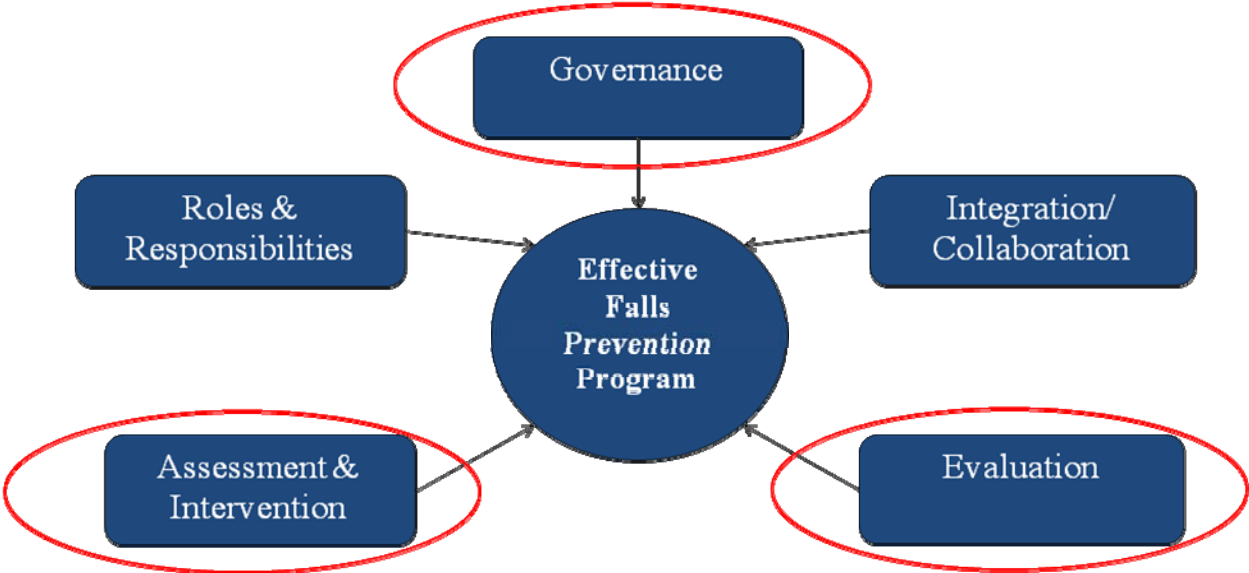


Figure 1 – Draft Suggested Falls Prevention Framework for an Effective LHIN-wide Falls Prevention Program

FALLS PREVENTION LAUNCH EVENT PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Falls Prevention Launch Event Planning Sub-Committee met twice to formulate a draft plan for the Launch Event that will kick off the implementation of the Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit. This draft plan was presented to the Committee for discussion on key decision points. The plan outlined a number of details pertaining to the event including objectives of the event, date of the event, venue options, list of attendees, potential speakers and potential sponsors. It was decided that the Launch event will be held at the beginning of the fall 2011 and will be by invitation only.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next few weeks, each committee member will be interviewed to obtain their perspective on the concept of integration and collaboration as well as the role and responsibility of their respective sector/organization within the overall provincial falls prevention project. The next Mobilization Committee will be held on April 12, 2011. At this meeting, the two elements left in the suggested framework, integration/collaboration and roles & responsibilities as well as the additional considerations to the model will be thoroughly discussed.

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LHIN Collaborative (LHINC)

The LHIN Collaborative (LHINC) is an advisory structure formed to work at a provincial level to strengthen relationships among health service providers (HSPs), their Associations and the LHINs collectively, and support system alignment. LHINC provides a system structure to engage HSPs on system-wide health issues. LHINC is led by a Council and supported by a Secretariat.