

Integrated Provincial Falls Prevention Project

Communiqué #4

May 31, 2011

INTRODUCTION

This communiqué is the fourth in a series of communiqués that will be distributed to health system partners including the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), Public Health Units (PHUs), Community Care Access Centres (CCACs), Hospitals, Long Term Care (LTC), Mental Health & Addictions (MH&A), Community Health Centres (CHCs), Community Support Services (CSS), 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), Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, Regional Geriatric Programs (RGP) of Ontario, Ontario Hospital Association (OHA), Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), Health Quality Ontario (HQP) and the Alzheimer Society of Ontario regarding progress and outcomes of the Integrated Provincial Falls Prevention Mobilization Committee.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Select provincial and national organization and initiatives were interviewed to identify opportunities for collaboration and alignment. This concluded the primary and secondary research that was planned to inform the framework and toolkit.

Integrated Provincial Falls Prevention Project Overview

The Integrated Provincial Falls Prevention Project was initiated in November 2010 as a LHIN priority project. This project is co-led by the LHINs and Public Health and brings other health system partners together to improve the quality of life and wellbeing 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 Integrated 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 within the elderly population.

As part of this project, the Integrated Provincial Falls Prevention Mobilization Committee was established to bring together the LHINs, PHUs and other organizations and sectors to formulate an "Integrated Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit" that will assist all parties in effectively reducing falls and the impact of falls on seniors across the province. As many successful projects are already underway, the aim is to leverage existing services to optimize resources and avoid duplication of efforts. As such, the Integrated 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 and resources 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 begin thereafter and will focus on the implementation of the framework.

MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

The draft Integrated Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit report was completed and circulated to mobilization committee members to collect their feedback ahead of the fourth Mobilization Committee meeting, held on May 31st, 2011. During the fourth meeting, the feedback received and incorporated into the second revision of the report was presented. Items identified as requiring the committee's decision were discussed and decided upon.

EVALUATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Evaluation Sub-committee convened in the month of May. Membership included volunteers from the Mobilization Committee as well as representatives from the MOHLTC, SMARTRISK, the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN and Health Quality Ontario. The evaluation process as well as the set of falls indicators to be measured provincially were finalized and aligned with the Health System Indicator Initiative (HSII) that is currently supported by the LHIN Collaborative.

NEXT STEPS

The revised draft Integrated Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit report will be circulated to other select stakeholders to solicit their feedback into the document. The implementation plan (including project communications) will be drafted to present at the next Mobilization Committee meeting on June 21, 2011. Future plans of the Mobilization Committee will also be discussed as this will be the last scheduled meeting thus far. This meeting marks the beginning of Phase II of the project which focuses on implementation of the framework.

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LHIN Collaborative (LHINC)

The LHIN Collaborative (LHINC) is an advisory structure formed to work at a provincial level to engage with and strengthen relationships among health service providers, their Associations and the LHINs collectively on system-wide health issues related to the LHINS' mandate.