

Consortium Quarterly Connections



Message from the Central team!

We're back with the Winter newsletter! In this edition, we highlight our implementation mentors, UTI indicators, updates from our partners ONF and SCI-O as well as spotlights on London Implementation & Evaluation Specialists and Toronto Site Leadership.

While this season has marked some uncertainty, with the unfortunate news that ONF is having to cease operations (See pg 5 for message from ONF), we are optimistic for continuation and transition to the next phase of our work. In fact, next issue we hope to bring exciting details about the growth of the Consortium into a National Network.

We are also excited to announce the launch of our website! The website features updates from the team, profiles of participating sites, network metrics, trainings and lots more. www.sciconsortium.ca

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Consortium Achievements

Deliverable	Number
Full Network Meetings	5
Network Members (n=88 clinicians, n=22 indiv with SCI/D)	100
Consortium Leaders Meetings – MD & Clinical Leaders	24
Trained Implementation and Evaluation Specialists (IES)	12
Establishment of Site Implementation Teams	15
Implementation Team Members – Clinicians at Sites	127
Practice Profiles Created	29
Best Practice Tools & Resources (Total)	62
Publications	16
External Stakeholder Engagement(s)	14



Focus On: Urinary Tract Infection

The Consortium recently brought together physicians and other stakeholders across the province, who will be directly involved with implementing the Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) best practice indicators. At this meeting, details around the indicators noted below were clarified and strategies were formed for operationalizing the indicators in participating sites local contexts.

The Construct & The Indicators

Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) refers to significant bacteriuria among individuals with SCI/D and Neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction with symptoms or signs of infection. Our aim is to reduce inappropriate antibiotic prescription for UTI in order to reduce the rising incidence of antibiotic resistance and the associated complications among individuals with SCI/D living in the community.

Structure Indicator

Proportion of patients with SCI/D with a healthcare professional (family MD, PMR/urology)

Proportion of patients with SCI/D with a healthcare professional able to follow-up regarding urine culture and sensitivity within 48-72 hours of collection

Process Indicator

Proportion of SCI/D rehabilitation inpatients with UTI as defined by the UTI diagnostic checklist/definitions.

Outcome Indicator

Proportion of SCI/D rehabilitation inpatients with inappropriate antibiotic prescription.

Thanks!!! - To our Implementation Mentors

Our Implementation mentors play a vital role in making implementation happen. They support and guide the IES's through training and coaching. They share their practical experiences and expertise in implementation science gained from prior involvement in the Spinal Cord Injury Knowledge Mobilization Network (SCI KMN) and many other local quality improvement initiatives. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated crew!

 Carol Scovil is a rehab engineer in the Spinal Cord Rehab Program, Toronto Rehab, UHN. Her interests include assistive technology, pressure injuries, fall prevention, knowledge translation and best practice implementation in SCI rehabilitation in Canada and Nepal.

Heather Flett is the Advanced Practice Leader in the Spinal Cord Rehab Program, Toronto Rehab, UHN with over 20 years of experience, working as a physical therapist prior to her current role. Her interests include walking assessments and interventions, pressure injuries, best practice implementation and health service delivery and outcomes in SCI.

Anna Kras-Dupuis is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Rehab Program at Parkwood Institute, St. Joseph Healthcare London. Her key areas of interest include knowledge mobilization and patient self-management. She has strongly supported clinical and research integration and collaborative innovations within the rehab program.



Carol Scovil



Heather Flett



Anna Kras-Dupuis



Implementation & Evaluation Specialists Parkwood Institute, St. Joseph Healthcare London

Brianna Floriancic is a Registered Nurse in the SCI Rehabilitation Program at Parkwood Institute Main St. Joseph's Healthcare London. She has 3 years' experience rehab nursing. She also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Kinesiology from Western University. Bri has a passion for patient advocacy and is an active participant with RNAO.



Jaelyn Vandenwyngaert is a Registered Nurse with the Regional Rehabilitation program at Parkwood Institute. She has 2 years of experience working as a registered nurse in spinal cord rehabilitation. Jaelyn feels it is important for nurses to be a part of research implementation to promote evidence-based practice and optimize overall patient outcomes

Stephanie Cornell, in addition to her role as an IES, has just taken on a new role as Clinical Development and Implementation Lead for the Gray Centre for Mobility and Activity at Parkwood Institute, St. Joseph's Healthcare London. Formerly a staff therapist in the Outpatient SCI Program, she is also a Clinical Associate at the School of Physical Therapy at Western University and a member of R2P team at Parkwood. Stephanie is passionate about bringing together education, research and clinical practice in ways that improve health outcomes.



Charlie Giurleo is an Occupational Therapist in the Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Program at Parkwood Institute Main, St. Joseph's Healthcare London. He has over 10 years of experience working as an OT in neurological, musculoskeletal and mental health rehabilitation. Charlie strongly believes in the importance of clinical and research integration, as he feels collaboration leads to enhanced patient care. Charlie has recently completed a course through the British Columbia Institute of Technology in Sexual Health Rehabilitation.

Intangible Benefits of the Consortium...

During an IES meeting, the team reflected on the achievements from this initiative over the past year – especially those that were most significant, (yet hard to measure), especially seen from the frontlines. These included;

- increased sharing with colleagues which scaled beyond Consortium activities;
- ability to share information and resources with immediate impact (e.g. shared resources adapted for local sites amidst Covid);
- connections with leading clinicians and researchers across the province;
- personal professional development and capacity building to improve problem solving and implementation skills.



FOCUS ON ... LEADERSHIP

Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Program, Lyndhurst Center – University Health Network

We are pleased to feature the site leadership team and some highlights from Toronto! Iona MacRitchie is the Clinical Manager, Lyndhurst Centre, UHN and Heather Flett is the Advanced Practice Leader, Spinal Cord Rehabilitation, Lyndhurst Centre, UHN. Iona and Heather lead a dynamic team of IES's at Ontario's largest (and only) dedicated spinal cord injury rehabilitation program.

The nature and size of the Toronto program brings some distinct challenges when it comes to effective implementation and Iona and Heather have been innovative in addressing these challenges. The Lyndhurst Centre has three 20-bed inpatient units, each with their own team culture and structure as well as a large outpatient program. Lyndhurst typically admits over 300 patients each year. In order to build capacity in implementation and to draw upon a broad range of experiences, Heather and Iona decided to have five IES's from different professions share the IES role which has proven to be an effective strategy for the Toronto team.



Heather and Iona note how this team helped develop unique solutions to deal with the ever-changing demands placed by the pandemic. Given the isolation and impact to emotional well-being for patients in hospital separated from family and loved ones while dealing with all the challenges associated with a new spinal cord injury, Lyndhurst implemented new leisure and recreational programs. The consortium team played an important role in designing and implementing evaluation surveys for both patients and staff to garner feedback about these new programs. This proved highly successful and speaks to leadership in mobilizing the dedicated front-line staff across Lyndhurst.

Another key strength at Lyndhurst is the engagement supported by leadership of both front-line staff and persons with lived experience in all quality improvement activities. A total of 106 persons with SCI who were currently undergoing inpatient SCI rehabilitation were approached to share their experience and perspectives during the improvement cycles associated with the Consortium. A key learning was that the IESs' ability to gather patient perspectives in a timely manner led to the realization that patient experience could more easily be incorporated into the rapid adaptations in clinical care required during the Covid-19 challenges (and also applied to support the implementation of other Consortium-related domains).



Pleased to Announce!!

New free course for people with spinal cord injuries on bladder surgical options

People with SCI may experience problems with their bladder function. This 15-minute course will introduce people with SCI to three surgical approaches for improving bladder control: bladder augmentation, urinary diversion and catheterisable stoma. The goal is to help people with SCI review surgical options and support discussions with their health care team. This course was developed with funding from the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation and Praxis Spinal Cord Institute. Special thank you to Dr. Blayne Welk, clinical Subject Matter Expert, as well as Anita Kaiser, Helena Griner and Heather Holmes who shared their experiences.

Learn more and register for a free Cortree [account](#).

Use the link below;

<https://home.cortree.com/bladder-surgery/>





Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation
Fondation ontarienne de neurotraumatologie

ONF Update

With regret, the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) has announced the wind down of its operations by March 31, 2021.

ONF has been a key supporter of the SCI IEQCC from its inception and was involved in its evolution launching from the SCI Knowledge Mobilization Network (SCI-KMN) and SCI Rehabilitation Care High Performance Indicators (SCI-HIGH) projects. ONF’s support has been crucial in helping the Consortium advance its vision to ensure optimal and equitable healthcare services for all Ontarians living with SCI. ONF’s CEO, Kent Bassett-Spiers is a forming member of the Consortium’s steering committee and has been influential in guiding the network’s developments over the past few years.

ONF continues to work closely with the Ontario Ministry of Health to ensure, as much as possible, so that the work of the Consortium can continue to improve care outcomes for Ontarians living with spinal cord injury regardless of where they live.

Visit ONF’s website to read their [formal statement](https://onf.org/onf-corporate-announcement-february-2021/).
<https://onf.org/onf-corporate-announcement-february-2021/>

On behalf of the members of the Consortium, we express our sincere gratitude for the vision and support ONF has provided to the Consortium and to the SCI Community in general over the years.

You are a primary reason we are a Community in the first place!!!

INNOVATIONS IN CARE

9TH NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE: NOV 16 - 18, 2021

Meeting may be in person at the Beanfield Centre, Toronto, (ON)

Due to the ongoing climate this conference may be a virtual or hybrid meeting.

Details are to follow.



@CSCI_RA cscira.ca



Coming soon!

The 9th National SCI Conference holding this year is themed “INNOVATIONS IN CARE”. The conference is scheduled for November 16-18, 2021.

For more information, use this link;
<https://cscira.ca/>

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