

Consortium Quarterly Connections



Message from the Central team!

We are excited to present this Fall edition of our quarterly newsletter! Most importantly, we appreciate all the hard work of the Consortium steering committee, site leadership team and all the implementation & evaluation specialists (IES) who have worked tirelessly towards the Consortium deliverables and the implementation of indicators across the rehab centers of Ontario. We have seen the immense value of working together as a team and the ripple effects of these efforts as we move towards evaluating and creating our first provincial report card for Spinal Cord Injury in Ontario. In this edition, we highlight some of the many activities within our network; including several specialized training sessions and spotlights on The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre as well as on Jennifer Duley (IES at Hamilton) - not to mention the continued great work by SCI Ontario and updates from ONF. Many sites are now working actively on the Tissue Integrity domain - look on Page 2 for more information about the specific indicators for this important area.

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Focus On: Tissue Integrity

The IES team and their site implementation teams have been focusing on the Tissue Integrity domain. The team formed working groups to identify and define some of the issues and barriers to implementing routine documentation of daily skin checks.

The Construct:

Maintaining tissue integrity after SCI/D involves the prevention and management of pressure injuries in areas of the body where sensation is diminished or absent

Common sites of Pressure Sores (© Spinal Cord Injury Ontario, 2015)

Did you or someone else check your skin from Head-to-Toe TODAY? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Date: / / ID: Who filled the card? ☐ Patient ☐ Staff SCI-HIGH v1.06/2019

Figure 2 SCI-High daily skin check cards for the process indicator. Illustration used with permission from Spinal Cord Injury Ontario and adapted from Preventing and Treating Pressure Sores: A guide for people with spinal cord injuries (2015). <https://sciontario.org/support-services/resources/living-with-an-sci/skin-health-pressure-injuries/>.

The Indicators:

Structure Indicator

Proportion of patients with SCI/D with access to education/resources related to tissue integrity and pressure injury.

Proportion of individuals with SCI/D with access to hand-held or portable mirror for skin check

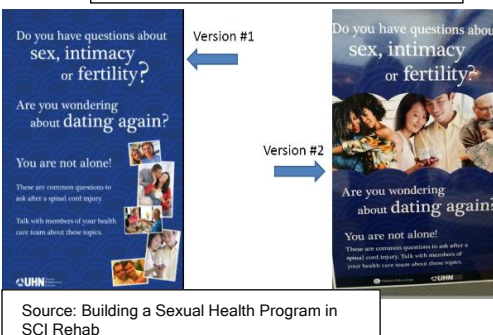
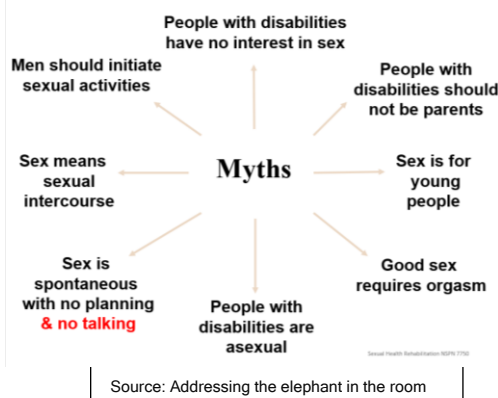
Process Indicator

Proportion of individuals with SCI/D who completed daily head to toe skin checks

Outcome Indicator

Intermediary - Proportion of individuals with SCI/D diagnosed with pressure injury

Final - Proportion of individuals with SCI/D diagnosed with intact skin



Sexual Health Virtual Training...

Two (2) Sexual Health virtual sessions were held this fall to enable open discussions related to sexual health in SCI and help create a permissive environment among healthcare professionals. Facilitated by content experts Charlie Giurleo (Parkwood, London), Sandra Mills and Carrie Mizzoni (Lyndhurst, Toronto), these sessions highlighted the following topics; sexual response cycle and SCI impact, permission giving, implementation framework to embed sexual health program into clinical practice, initiating and engaging in challenging conversations, developing patient and staff education resources, the use of the PLISSIT model in addressing sexual functioning and sharing experiences. To watch the recording of these sessions, please use the links below;

Session 1: Addressing the Elephant in the Room

<https://youtu.be/Pmj9Baor4tI>

Session 2: Building a Sexual Health Program in SCI Rehab - the Lyndhurst Experience

<https://youtu.be/jPVal6ZTOxU>



Charlie Giurleo, OT
Parkwood Institute



Sandra Mills, MEd
Lyndhurst Center



Carrie Mizzoni, OT
Lyndhurst Center

SWAT Virtual Training



In September, the Consortium hosted a virtual training session on the Canadian Spinal Cord Injury Standing and Walking Assessment Toolkit (CSCI-SWAT) to support clinicians across all sites integrate standardized assessments within their clinical practice. Facilitated by national experts Kristen Walden (PRAXIS) and Shane McCullum (Stan Cassidy Centre), the training session was attended by physiotherapists and occupational therapists across rehab centers in Ontario and highlighted: background of CSCI-SWAT, overview of the staging and outcome measures, sample cases and examples of National SWAT data use. To watch a recording of this session, please use the link below;

SWAT Virtual Training:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZY7vPu8QdE>

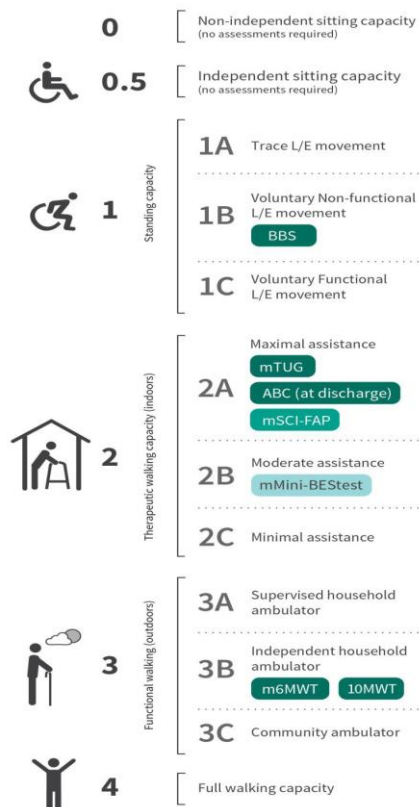


Shane McCullum



Kristen Walden

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE Canadian SCI Standing and Walking Assessment Tool



Canadian SCI Standing and Walking Assessment Tool (SWAT)

SWAT Advanced SWAT Research SWAT

SCI Ontario SPINAL CORD INJURY ONTARIO LÉSIONS MÉDULLAIRES ONTARIO

Ontario 2020 Fall Budget Submission

Click here for more info

57%

of people who use uncoated catheters experience four or more urinary tract infections per year.

86%

say catheters are a huge financial burden due to a lack of public coverage.

82%

state that challenges on accessing the appropriate number of catheters impact their ability to be independent and self-reliant.

90%

agree that all users of catheters must have access to a specialty nurse for teaching and clinical support.

78%

support moving to a model where approved distributors can bill the government directly for products shipped to end users.

ISSUE - Not about the government needing to spend more money

In Ontario, an estimated **33,000 individuals**¹ rely on intermittent catheterization. **Intermittent catheters** and supplies are needed by individuals to empty their bladder, typically **six times a day**.

All intermittent catheters are sold *sterile* and for *single use only*, but due to a lack of public funding, many people need to **reuse their catheters** to save money. **Reusing** single-use catheters poses both a safety risk with individuals suffering from **repeated urinary tract infections (UTIs)** and **potential liability risk** when healthcare professionals provide information about how to clean catheters as that is considered **off-label use** according to the Canadian Medical Protective Association².

Provincial programs fund intermittent catheters across **multiple government departments**, are **cumbersome** to apply for, **expensive to administer** and **fail to take a value-based approach** for how government can improve upon the money they are already spending to provide better public coverage for these essential medical supplies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct a review of all intermittent catheter government funding programs to find both system and cost efficiencies;
2. Commit to this work in the 2020 Ontario Fall Budget;
3. Ensure SCIO Community has a seat at the table to advance value-based procurement for intermittent catheters and supplies.

Path To Modernize Ontario Public Coverage

The following provides the Government of Ontario with a **path forward for modernizing** the funding available for individuals needing to use intermittent catheters and related supplies. If implemented, government programs will reduce red tape, improve procurement practices, achieve greater value for the government and provide people with what they need; *simply and efficiently*.

For more [info](#). Contact Peter Athanasopoulos: petera@sciontario.org | 416-422-5644 x 260



JENNIFER DULEY

Implementation & Evaluation Specialist
The Hamilton Health Sciences

This edition focuses on Jen who has over 15 years' of experience working in Spinal Cord Injury. At present, Jen works as a physiotherapist on the acute orthopedic and spine unit, as well as the Baclofen Pump Program at Hamilton General Hospital. In addition to her clinical role, Jen is also working as an Implementation and Evaluation Consortium in the role of an Implementation and Evaluation Specialist and has been championing the Consortium activities for her site. We appreciate Jen for the hard work and immense value she adds to the Consortium!



FOCUS ON ... LEADERSHIP

The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre

We are excited to highlight the Ottawa team! The Ottawa team have done impressive and impeccable work in weaving best practice implementation into daily practice. The Leadership team includes Vidya Sreenivasan, the Medical Director of Neurospinal Rehab. Program and Susan Saulnier, the Clinical Manager of SCI and Amputation Rehab. Program. These Site Leads as well as the IES Andrea Chase and Data Support, Dorothyann Curran have worked with great enthusiasm to encourage and engage the wider team in implementing best practices to improve care for their clients.

In a recent chat with the team, they highlighted some of the work being done to implement the best practice indicators. The use of the EPIC Health Information System has been very helpful to facilitate some of the documentation of the indicators - and will enable sustainability of these practices. The occupational therapy team have done great work in implementing documentation in three key domains of healthcare; Sexual Health, Tissue Integrity and Wheeled Mobility. The site implementation team has also done a great job in implementing the walking & wheeled domain indicator. A recent internal training session involved physiotherapists, occupational therapists and their assistants collaborating to work through some of the wheelchair skills training and questionnaires. All of this work bringing these teams closer together!

Vidya and Susan expressed that a great benefit of being a member of the Consortium is that it has given the whole team the opportunity to focus on the SCI population - something that the team feels strongly about, but that is not always possible given the pull of organizational priorities that often are centred on larger patient groups. The opportunity to connect with corresponding teams across the province and the exchange of information has been invaluable. "This will lead to a lot of synergy, development of new programs and reinforcement of pre-existing programs to enhance the care of SCI patients".



ONF Implementation Support Services

ONF has long been committed to supporting knowledge creation, dissemination and implementation. Recent years have seen ONF developing the capacity to provide more standardized and systematic support to grantees with whom they are working. ONF has recently developed an implementation guide and support service process to be available to those grants for which an innovation is being considered for implementation. The ambition of providing this support is to use implementation science in the introduction of guidelines, best practices and interventions (innovations) ready for use by organizations. The approach will encourage an integrated approach to services in the three core programme areas at ONF: spinal cord injury, acquired brain injury and fall prevention across the lifespan.

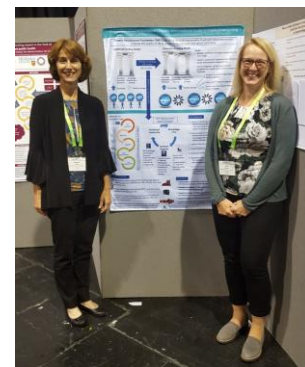
Through the grant proposal process, the initiatives where an innovation is ready for uptake at the service delivery level will be identified, and a systematic implementation process will be integrated into the expected activity. The tailored implementation process will be supported by ONF through implementation facilitation and coordination in partnership with the researchers and implementing organization. In addition, sustainability and scale up will be considered and integrated into the process. Key stakeholders in the application of implementation science include those with lived experience, implementing organizations and practitioners, and researchers and developers of the innovation.

Through the consistent application of implementation science, ONF will ensure the use of research findings and access to proven innovations that will improve services available to clients and their families. We look forward to working with all of our partners on effective implementation of research.



Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation

Fondation ontarienne de neurotraumatologie



Coming soon!

Network expansion opportunities: PRAXIS in collaboration with SCI IEQCC is providing opportunity for Rehab centers outside Ontario to join the Consortium. More details soon!



SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 15-18, 2021

CSCIRA

www.cscira.ca



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9th National Spinal Cord Injury Conference

Innovations in Care

Early Bird Registration Deadline - August 31
Abstract Submission - Mar 15th

Consortium Operations Team



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