

December 15, 2015

Dear colleague,

The Quality Management Partnership, a collaboration between CCO and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, is pleased to announce that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has asked us to proceed with implementing provincial quality management programs for colonoscopy, mammography and pathology. Please refer to the appended memo from Lynn Guerriero, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Negotiations and Accountability Management Division for more detail on the Ministry's request.

These provincial quality management programs include provincial standards, quality reporting at the physician, facility, regional and provincial levels, and supportive processes to help drive continuous quality improvement. Once implemented, they will support physicians and care teams to continuously improve the quality and consistency of care provided to patients across the province. For more details, please see the report [Provincial Quality Management Programs for Colonoscopy, Mammography and Pathology](#).

The Quality Management Partnership has also released its first provincial report on the quality of these three health services. [Building on Strong Foundations: Inaugural Report on Quality in Colonoscopy, Mammography and Pathology](#) provides information on the health professionals and facilities that provide these three health services in Ontario, an overview of key provincial quality initiatives that currently exist for each health service and a summary of performance throughout the province as measured through indicators recommended by the Quality Management Partnership's expert advisory panels. This report provides a baseline for quality and will help guide the implementation of the quality management programs.

Implementation of the three provincial quality management programs will begin in 2015/16, and will be phased in over several years. The first priority for implementation is establishing a clinical leadership structure for each quality management program, including facility leads for each applicable service area at each facility. We are committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with you. Facilities can expect to receive more information in early January, including an implementation package and an invitation to attend a webcast to learn more.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment to providing high-quality care. We look forward to working together to implement these provincial programs.

Sincerely,



Michael Sherar, PhD, President and CEO
CCO



Rocco Gerace, MD, Registrar
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

Appendix. Ministry Mandate for the Quality Management Partnership.

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

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MEMORANDUM TO: Colonoscopy, Mammography and Pathology Stakeholders in Ontario

FROM: Lynn Guerriero, Assistant Deputy Minister, Negotiations and Accountability Management Division

SUBJECT: Quality Management Partnership

In 2013, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (the Ministry) asked Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) to come together under the Quality Management Partnership (the Partnership) to jointly develop provincial quality management programs (QMPs) in three areas: colonoscopy, mammography, and pathology.

The goals of the Partnership are to enhance quality of care and patient safety, increase the consistency of the care provided across facilities, and to improve public confidence by increasing accountability and transparency.

The Partnership submitted detailed design recommendations for the three QMPs to the Ministry in March 2015. These programs are based on a framework that includes:

- The introduction of standards and guidelines that will apply to all facilities that provide these services;
- Quality reporting at the provincial, regional, facility and provider levels;
- A supportive three-tiered clinical leadership structure; and
- Resources and opportunities to support quality improvement.

The Ministry has asked the Partnership to proceed with implementing the three provincial QMPs. These programs will directly support Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care.

In order to achieve the goals of the Partnership, it will be critical and expected that all facilities providing these services in Ontario participate. It is recognized that there is already excellent work occurring across the province to enhance quality for these three health services. This initiative will not be duplicative, but rather it will align and integrate

with existing quality programs and processes, and spread best practices to all facilities across the province. As an example, alignment will occur between other provincial quality initiatives as they are developed, such as Health Quality Ontario's recommendations for diagnostic imaging peer review.

Recognizing the scope and breadth of this initiative, implementation will be phased in over several years. Early implementation activities will focus on developing the foundational elements of the Partnership, including:

- Establishing QMP Clinical Leads at the provincial, regional and facility levels to strengthen accountability for quality and support quality improvement;
- Developing the IM/IT infrastructure required to support quality reporting; and
- Releasing a provincial report on the quality of these three health services.

With these early implementation activities, the Partnership will be engaging facilities to identify QMP Facility Leads and to begin to collect additional data to support quality reporting.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this important initiative.


Lynn Guerriero
Assistant Deputy Minister

- c: Ms. Debbje Korzeniowski, Director, Provincial Programs Branch, Negotiations and Accountability Management Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)
Ms. Pauline Ryan, Director, Health Services Branch, Negotiations and Accountability Management Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)