

Models of Care Initiative

Despite major advances in therapeutics, research shows that Ontarians living with Inflammatory Arthritis (IA) are still not receiving the right care at the right time. Health care systems and providers fail to recognize and treat this condition early and effectively. Delays in treatment can result in significant disability. In 2010 the Arthritis Alliance of Canada estimated that Rheumatoid Arthritis, the most prevalent form of IA, drove \$916 million dollars in direct health care costs and \$1.29 billion dollars in productivity losses in Ontario. The growing burden of IA, both in terms of its impact on the lives of Canadians, and the cost to governments, employers, and the economy put the sustainability of the health care system at risk. Therefore, a coordinated and integrated approach to enhancing care for patients living with IA is urgently required.

The ORA continues to be very focused on driving the Model of Care initiative forward in Ontario; and we know that the delivery of care paths must consider regional needs to be successfully adopted. Our provincial focus is strongly aligned with the national framework on Models of Care set forth by the Arthritis Alliance of Canada..

The Models of Care committee has been meeting regularly over the past 2 yrs. Some important updates over the last few months include:

1. **A network of partnerships with key stakeholders-** *including the Ontario Medical Association, The Canadian Rheumatology Association, and the Arthritis Alliance of Canada, The Ontario Biologics Research Initiative as a research platform for best practice; The Arthritis Society for awareness and education; and the College of Family Physicians and the College of Pharmacists.*
2. **Engagement with private and public funding networks-** these activities have focused on building strong collaborative partnerships with the pharmaceutical companies as well as Ministry of Health teams. Most recently, The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) invited Ontario researchers and knowledge transfer leads to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Health System Research Fund (HSRF) Program Awards. Ontario's Strategic Health System Priorities for the Program Awards include a focus on: Community-based Care, Quality Improvement and Safety, and Health System Performance and Sustainability Innovation. An application was submitted for Rheumatology Models of Care research using the unique collaboration with the OBRI research platform, with the following specific aims:
 - To understand the impact of IA on the Ontario health care system by understanding the burden and coordination of care for IA patients across health system levels, providers, and regions
 - To synthesize and integrate outcomes for knowledge user networks to inform the design and implementation of novel health care models/systems
 - To measure the impact of these system level changes on health services provision, and quality of care and health outcomes for all Ontarians living with IA
3. **A focus on Communication.** To inform the community and stakeholders, the MOC framework continues to be presented at various scientific meetings. To help inform our

members and the ministry, on the project scope and evolution, a manuscript is currently being developed in collaboration with *Sage Medica*. This report will highlight the ORA's leadership and commitment to enhancing patient care.

Stay tuned for an upcoming September 18th press release from the Arthritis Alliance of Canada on the National Model of Care initiative!