



Memory Clinics expanded to underserved areas in Ontario

New ARTIC project helps patients living with dementia receive care, closer to home

Toronto, January 23, 2017 – A model that allows family doctors to care directly for patients with memory problems associated with dementia and other conditions is being expanded to 17 clinics in rural, remote and underserved communities across the province.

Expansion of the Primary Care Memory Clinic model will permit many more Ontario residents to receive appropriate care closer to home, making more efficient use of limited specialist resources by reserving referrals for complex cases.

Clinics will be established thanks to the Adopting Research to Improve Care (ARTIC) Program, a proven model that accelerates the spread and implementation of evidence-based health care interventions across Ontario. ARTIC is co-led by the Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario (CAHO) and Health Quality Ontario, and is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care.

“Early in my career, I saw a big gap in care for persons with memory problems who were undiagnosed or undertreated,” said Dr. Linda Lee, a Kitchener-based family physician with expertise in care for the elderly, who developed the Primary Care Memory Clinic concept. “Through this model, primary care teams are building capacity to care for patients living with dementia, and support their caregivers too, right in their own communities.”

The memory clinic approach is based on providing appropriate training to family physicians and other primary care team members to care for patients with memory disorders. It has reduced the need for specialist referrals from up to 80% of patients with memory issues to fewer than 10% who require specialist level care, improving the patient and caregiver experience.

The Primary Care Memory Clinic model creates a collaborative system that integrates primary care and specialist care by training primary care teams, including physicians and other health care professionals, using an accredited five-day training program.

“The memory clinics are an exciting model of inter-professional care, and they are representative of the evidence-based interventions ARTIC is designed to support,” said Karen Michell, Executive Director of CAHO.

There are over 75 Primary Care Memory Clinics across Ontario. Thanks to ARTIC, 17 more clinics will be created in remote, rural and underserved communities. These communities include:

Chatham
Harrow
Lion's Head
Manitouwadge
Northbrook

Portland
Red Lake
Schreiber
Temiskaming Shores
Thunder Bay

Tillsonburg
Timmins
Windsor
Zurich

“ARTIC is the only Canadian program that focuses exclusively on implementing evidence-based interventions across multiple sites,” said Michell. “It’s about spreading what we already know works.”

“Memory clinics have already made a big impact on the daily lives of patients and caregivers facing dementia,” said Dr. Joshua Tepper, President and CEO of Health Quality Ontario. “The ARTIC Program is extending that impact across isolated parts of our province, helping even more patients receive the care and support they need.”

“Our government made a platform commitment to support the creation of new memory clinics across the province to help improve access to high quality coordinated care for people with dementia and their care providers,” said Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. “With today’s announcement, we’ve made significant progress on meeting that commitment and will continue to improve dementia supports through the development of Ontario’s Dementia Strategy.”

For more information, view this [video](#) about memory clinics in Ontario.

About ARTIC

The Adopting Research to Improve Care (ARTIC) Program, co-led by the Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario (CAHO) and Health Quality Ontario, is a proven model that accelerates the spread and implementation of evidence-based health care interventions across Ontario. Originally designed for the research hospital sector, the ARTIC Program has evolved to become a provincial resource for the full health system, supporting the province’s quality agenda in health care. Visit [ARTIC](#) for more information.

About CAHO

The Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario (CAHO) represents Ontario’s 24 research hospitals that play a unique and vital role in the province’s health care system. Collectively, we provide advanced patient care services, train the next generation of health care professionals, and conduct leading-edge research to discover tomorrow’s care today. As connectors in the system, we create capacity and generate a healthier, wealthier, smarter Ontario. For more information, visit www.caho-hospitals.com.

About Health Quality Ontario

Health Quality Ontario is the provincial advisor on the quality of health care in Ontario, evaluating the effectiveness of health care technologies and services, providing evidence-based recommendations, reporting to the public on the quality of the health system, and supporting the spread of quality improvement throughout the system. Visit www.hqontario.ca for more information.

ARTIC

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