

2025

Impact Assessment: Provincial Implementation of the Sickle Cell Disease Quality Standard



Background

3,500 people in Ontario are affected by sickle cell disease, which has a disproportionate impact on **people from Black and racialized communities**, who often face systemic barriers and long emergency wait times during acute pain episodes.

In 2023, Ontario Health released the [Sickle Cell Disease quality standard](#), a key deliverable under the province’s [A Black Health Plan for Ontario](#). In 2023/24 and 2024/25, 4 key functions of Ontario Health’s [Integrated Quality Framework](#) were actioned through 5 implementation strategies.

Implementation Strategies



Implementation funding



Implementation toolkit



Community of practice



eReport



Evidence2Practice

19% reduction in average time to **physician initial assessment** for people with sickle cell disease experiencing acute pain episodes in the **emergency department**



27.5-minute decrease in median time to first opioid dose across Evidence2Practice pilot organizations



Impact Highlights

Data and analytics

The use of eReport data is driving quality improvement efforts.

Increased knowledge exchange

1,200+ health care team members are supported by the implementation toolkit and resources from the community of practice.

Enhanced relationships and coordination

Ontario Health regions are empowering health care teams to deliver high-quality care.

Accelerated adoption of digital tools

The Evidence2Practice program has improved care delivery in acute care settings.

Provincial clinical leadership

Provincial clinical leadership has strengthened implementation and coordination between health care teams and community partners.

Lessons Learned



Strategic funding advances equitable, high-quality care by helping health care teams address disparities.



Provincial leadership boosts clinical relevance and health system partner engagement and awareness.



Partner engagement and collaboration are essential for successful implementation and scaling best practices.



Digital tools and data-driven decisions empower health care teams to deliver consistent, evidence-based care.

Next Steps & Recommendations

Using [evaluation criteria](#) from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the impact assessment identified the **need to establish a provincial model of care** to address persistent gaps and further advance the delivery of high-quality care for people with sickle cell disease in Ontario.



For more information, please refer to the [impact assessment](#).

