# Ontario General Medicine Quality Improvement *Network*

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| Number of hospital sites participating in GeMQIN and the COVID-19 Laboratory | Number of members in the GeMQIN Community of Practice | Number of physicians that have received MyPractice General Medicine reports to date (disseminated since 2018) | Number of general medicine hospital admissions captured |

GEMINI—General Medicine Inpatient Initiative          GeMQIN—Ontario General Medicine Quality Improvement Network

## A Note from Our Co-Leads

**Program Highlights**

Almost one year ago, we set the goal of engaging up to 30 hospitals across the province to participate in GeMQIN and the COVID-19 Hospital Analytics Laboratory. Over the past year, clinical and operational leaders from 32 hospitals have joined our community to share evidence, experience, and inspiration from the front lines of the pandemic. Nearly all of the committed hospitals have now obtained the requisite research ethics board approval and data-sharing agreements to begin transferring data for quality measurement and research. Our team is working with the remaining sites to finalize their onboarding. With these 32 hospitals, approximately 55% of all general medicine patients in Ontario will receive care in a hospital participating in quality improvement though GEMINI/GeMQIN. See Figure 1 for a map of the participating sites. We are also pleased to share with you that 167 physicians at seven sites have received at least one *MyPractice General Medicine Report*.

As we head into the summer and hopefully all have an opportunity to rest and recover, we want to express our sincere thanks for your contributions to this network over the past year. We are excited to work with you on the next steps in building a data-driven quality network. In the coming year, we will receive your hospital's data, prepare clinically meaningful quality reports designed by our community (thanks to those who have signed up for the report development committee), and initiate quality improvement initiatives.

Thanks and have a wonderful summer,

Amol Verma and Fahad Razak
GeMQIN Provincial Clinical Co-Leads

## Map of Participating Hospitals



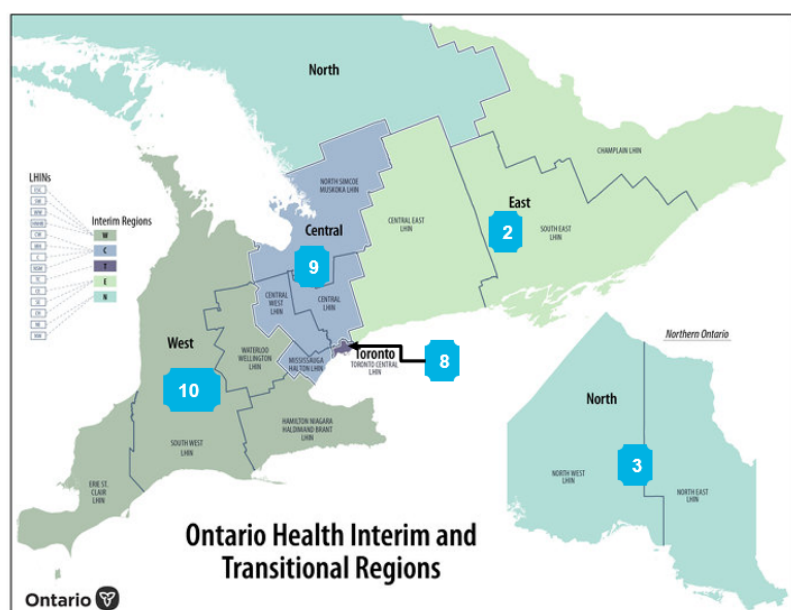*Figure 1: Map of GeMQIN Participating Sites as of July 2021. Click here for a full list of participating hospitals. Map adapted from the Ministry of Health: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/connectedcare/2019/CC_20191113.aspx*

## Community of Practice

**GeMQIN Community of Practice (CoP)**

If you are a member of a general medicine team and would like to join *Quorum*, or if you would like to request the recording for past monthly CoP calls, email *OH-HQO_GeMQIN@ontariohealth.ca*.

**March CoP Call: Delirium Quality Standard (*slides*)**

**Dr. Amir Ginzburg and Mary-Lynn Peters from Trillium Health Partners and Dr. Don Melady from Mount Sinai Hospital** shared their perspectives on delirium care in Ontario and its link to COVID-19 infection. Dr. Ginzburg described the challenges of identifying and managing delirium in acute care, while Dr. Melady provided an overview of the *Delirium Quality Standard*, a tool that describes high-quality care for people with delirium. Ms. Peters provided insights on how the quality standard statements align with Trillium's Delirium Program, highlighting the positive impact of this program to Trillium's patients and providers.

Some resources shared:

- *Delirium quality standard and patient guide*

- *An accredited e-learning website for geriatric medicine (Geri-EM)*

- *Delirium-related tools and resources for providers, patients, and families*

- *Spotlight on Trillium Health Partners' Delirium Team*

**June CoP Call: Palliative Care in General Medicine (*slides*)**

**Dr. Darren Cargill, Provincial Clinical Co-Lead of the Ontario Palliative Care Network (OPCN)**, provided us with an excellent overview of the OPCN and current priorities, the important role it plays both within the context of COVID-19, and of palliative care more broadly. Key resources highlighted to support palliative care included:

- *Symptom Management for Adult Patients with COVID-19 receiving End-of-Life Supportive Care Outside of the ICU*

- *Serious Illness Conversation Guide*

- *SpeakUp Ontario Goals of Care Conversation guides*

- *Documentation template for Goals of Care discussions*

**Dr. James Downar, The Ottawa Hospital**, shared his important work on timely identification of patients with unmet palliative need, highlighting key learnings from his research on the *development and feasibility*, *acceptability* and *implementation* of the mHOMR tool. The mHOMR tool provides exciting opportunities to drive quality improvement in end-of-life care. Dr. Jonathan Ailon, Unity Health Toronto, described how mHOMR is being implemented at St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto. If you would like to learn more about using mHOMR at your site, please **email James Downar at jdownar@toh.ca**.

## Featured Activities

**Managing drug shortages during a pandemic: tocilizumab and COVID-19**

(CMAJ) – Using GEMINI data, Verma et al. estimated the proportion of hospitalized COVID-19 patients who would have benefited from tocilizumab and anticipated a drug shortage during the pandemic's third wave. In collaboration with members of the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, the authors demonstrated an approach to identifying drug shortages and proposed an ethical framework for allocation of scarce drugs.

**Lessons for hospital care from the first wave of COVID-19 in Ontario, Canada**

(Hospital Practice) – Ontario accounted for *approximately 40%* of all COVID-19 hospitalizations in Canada during the first wave and most COVID-19 patients were cared for on general medical wards. To support the COVID-19 pandemic response, GeMQIN pivoted, enabling accelerated sharing of COVID-19 experiences and learnings across hospitals in Ontario. This commentary summarizes key lessons related to hospital care of patients with COVID-19 based on experiences of GeMQIN members shared during our *October* and *November* calls.

**Coming Up**

We will be pausing our regular monthly GeMQIN CoP calls in July and August to host informal calls with our physician champions and clinical operations leads to discuss how to make the most of our CoP in 2021/22. If you are interested in participating and have not received your email invitation yet, please email us at *OH-HQO_GeMQIN@ontariohealth.ca*. Results will be shared in September.

In the fall, we can look forward to:

1. Sites who have completed the data transfer process will be receiving their first individual physician level reports (*MyPractice General Medicine Report*)

2. Development work for the inaugural hospital-level reports, which will enable benchmarking across the 32 hospital sites in our Network.

3. Continued networking with colleagues across the province on key general medicine issues

Our next call will be on **September 21, 2021 at 12pm.**

To learn more about GeMQIN and how you can get involved, please visit our website. We welcome all hospitals across Ontario to join the community of practice by contacting us at *OH-HQO_GeMQIN@ontariohealth.ca*.

If you would like to share your hospital's work in the next update or your ideas about program activities, please forward them to the same email address.

**Ontario Health**