Ontario General Medicine Quality Improvement *Network*

32
Number of hospital sites participating in GEMINI/GeMQIN and the COVID-19 Laboratory

93
Number of members in the GeMQIN Community of Practice

168
Number of physicians that have received *MyPractice* General Medicine reports to date (disseminated since 2018)

393,000
Number of general medicine admissions captured

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

Program Highlights

GeMQIN Committee Developing Hospital-Level Reports

A committee of clinical, administrative, data analytics, and quality improvement (QI) leaders from GeMQIN hospitals have come together to provide guidance to the GeMQIN program delivery team on the following topics:

- Methodology for physician- and hospital-level reporting
- Indicator selection and development
- Report development (e.g., visualization and quality improvement content)
- Critical messaging and communication
- Strategies to support report uptake

The committee's first task is to support the development of new hospital-level general medicine quality reports. These reports will enable general medicine teams to compare their care to other GeMQIN hospitals and identify opportunities for improvement. In addition, teams will learn from each other's quality improvement projects through the GeMQIN community of practice. The timeline below shows key milestones for data collection, reports, and QI projects over the next year.

Milestone Timeline

Figure 1: Timeline for major milestones and deadlines over the next year

Figure Notes:

1. *Sites that transfer their data by October 29, 2021, will receive their individual-level practice reports and will be included in the hospital-level report in the Winter/Spring 2022. Hospital sites that are not able to submit their data to GEMINI by the deadline will not be included in the inaugural GeMQIN hospital-level general medicine quality report; however, they may still be eligible to receive their individual-level physician reports in Fall 2022, pending timely data transfer. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Mak at Denise.Mak@unityhealth.to.*

2. *GeMQIN program delivery team looks forward to working with sites to support reflective practices and helping your team plan for your quality improvement initiatives.*

Community of Practice

GeMQIN Community of Practice (CoP)

The GeMQIN community on *Quorum* uses a private online space for all members to connect and share. Sharing resources harnesses the power of a community and accelerates improvement as members can begin from a common framework.

SEPTEMBER Call: Updates on Acute Treatment of COVID-19 With Dr. Andrew Morris (*call recording*)

Over 185 health care providers from across Ontario attended the September call to learn about advances in the acute treatment of COVID-19 from guest speaker, **Dr. Andrew Morris**, from Sinai Health and the Ontario COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Table. Dr. Morris reviewed the latest evidence synthesis and recommendations from the Science Table's Drugs and Biologics Clinical Practice Guidelines Working Group. Dr. Morris' slides and links to relevant articles are available below:

- *GeMQIN September Community of Practice Presentation Slides* (on Quorum)
- *Clinical Practice Guideline Summary: Recommended Drugs and Biologics in Adult Patients with COVID-19*
- *Heparin Anticoagulation for Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19*
- *Ivermectin to Prevent Disseminated Strongyloides Infection in Patients with COVID-19*

OCTOBER Call: COVID-19 Virtual Care (*call recording*)

Dr. David Kaplan, Vice President of Quality, Clinical Improvement and Quality Programs, Ontario Health, opened the session by providing a brief overview on the provincial landscape and primary care involvement on *COVID@Home* efforts.

Jody Strik, Director, Integrated Care and Transitions at Halton Health Care, **Dr. Christopher Smith**, general medicine physician at Toronto East Health Network, and **Dr. Haroon Yousuf**, general medicine physician at Hamilton Health Sciences Centre, provided updates, lessons learned, and future direction for their virtual care programs. While these three programs had different approaches to addressing remote monitoring of COVID-19 patients, several common themes emerged, including community care collaboration, scalability, and adaptability of the program to other clinical areas of focus for remote monitoring.

Presentation slides and additional resources are shared below:

- *GeMQIN October Community of Practice Presentation slides* (on Quorum)
- *HFAM COVID-19 Clinical Pathway*
- *Hamilton study regarding post discharge remote monitoring*

Featured Activities

Physician Gender-Based Differences in the Processes of Care and Patient Outcomes (JAMA Health Forum; July 2021)

Examining cross-sectional GEMINI data on 171,625 hospitalizations revealed that patients under the care of female physicians on general medicine wards had lower in-hospital mortality than those cared for by their male counterparts. Existing literature on male-female differences in mortality rates depends on administrative data, and this study demonstrated that electronic clinical record data (like that contained in GEMINI) can provide granular insights on differences in care patterns.

Choosing Wisely Talks: Curbing Unnecessary Lab Testing—Understanding the National Landscape of Laboratory Utilization (recording)

In September, **Dr. Amol Verma** and **Dr. Manal Elnenaei** shared insights on strategies to reduce low-value laboratory testing and how it can alleviate pressures on resource-constrained health care systems. Dr. Verma shared how the *GeMQIN MyPractice reports* provide granular physician-level practice feedback about bloodwork ordering, and how his colleagues at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto used this data to reflect on their practice. They asked the physicians who used the least amount of routine bloodwork to share their routine practices with the rest of the group, which helped spread best practices and improvement.

Coming Up

- **October 29, 2021**—Deadline for submitting data to GEMINI to receive practice-level and hospital-level reports in January–March 2022 and be included in the inaugural hospital-level general medicine report
- **November 23, 2021**—Community of Practice call: Long-COVID—what is it and how do we care for it?
- **December 16, 2021**—Community of Practice call: Problematic alcohol use and alcohol use disorder
- **January 19, 2022**—MyPractice General Medicine reports for physicians: how to make the most of your report

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