

Provincial Falls Prevention Project Communiqué #1

January 27, 2011

Provincial Falls Prevention Project

The Provincial Falls Prevention Project is a LHIN-led initiative that brings health system partners together to formulate an Ontario Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit that will facilitate all partners in implementing effective falls prevention interventions for seniors.

INTRODUCTION

This communiqué is the first in a series of communiqués that will be distributed to health system partners including the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), their health service providers [Community Care Access Centres (CCAC), Hospitals, Long Term Care (LTC), Mental Health & Addictions (MH&A), Community Health Centres (CHC), Community Support Services (CSS)], Public Health Units (PHUs), Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport (MOHPS), Ontario Agency of Health Promotion and Protection (OAHPP), Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), Ontario Medical Association (OMA), Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP), Neurotrauma Foundation and Regional Geriatric Programs (RGP) of Ontario regarding progress and outcomes of the recently established Provincial Falls Prevention Mobilization Committee.

FALLS PREVENTION PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Provincial Falls Prevention Project was initiated in November 2010 as a LHIN priority project. This project is a LHIN-led initiative that brings health system partners together to improve the quality of life and health and well being of seniors through prevention of falls and fall-related injuries. The Provincial Falls Prevention Project also aligns with the MOHLTC and LHIN focus on improving Access to Care by addressing the high rates of ALC and ED visits through reducing falls in the elderly.

As part of this project, a Falls Prevention Mobilization Committee was established to bring together the LHINs, their HSPs, PHUs and primary care to formulate an “Ontario Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit” that will assist all parties in implementing effective falls prevention initiatives across the province. As many successful projects are already underway, the aim is to expand upon existing services rather than to create an entirely new program. As such, the Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit will not be one-size-fits-all; rather it will be a collection of a wide range of successful falls prevention practices from across Ontario and other jurisdictions. Phase I of this project will end with the release of the toolkit in the spring of 2011. Phase II of the project will be on the implementation of the toolkit and includes formulating an implementation plan to support the LHINs in implementing the toolkit, monitoring implementation progress and evaluating falls prevention interventions post implementation.

FALLS PREVENTION MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

The Falls Prevention Mobilization Committee commenced its work on January 27, 2011. This committee consists of representation from the different sectors across the continuum of care including the LHINs, CCAC, Hospital, Public Health, LTC, MH&A, CHC, CSS, MOHPS, OAHPP, OMA, OCFP, Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation and the RGP of Toronto. The Committee is co-chaired by Bernie Blais, CEO of the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN and Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, CEO and Medical Officer of Health of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit and Chair of the Council of Medical Officers of Health. The LHIN Collaborative will provide secretariat support including project management and coordination of research efforts to the Mobilization Committee.

During its first meeting, the committee approved the project deliverables and timelines as well as the proposed draft falls prevention framework, with the understanding that the framework is subject to slight modification. The draft falls prevention framework was adopted from the World Health Organization and outlines five key elements to a successful falls prevention program. These elements will be researched in depth and discussed in further detail in the two upcoming Mobilization Committee meetings. The Mobilization Committee's current mandate is to complete Phase I of the project and the first component, the implementation plan, of Phase II. As part of its communication plan, the Mobilization Committee will be releasing a communiqué after each committee meeting.

Falls Prevention Launch Event Planning Committee

To kick off the implementation of the Falls Prevention Framework and Toolkit, the Mobilization Committee decided to plan and organize a Falls Prevention Launch Event to mark the completion of the toolkit and the beginning of the second phase of the project. This launch event will be held in summer of 2011. The Falls Prevention Launch Event Planning Committee, a sub-committee of a few Mobilization Committee members, was established to plan and organize the launch event and will commence its work this month.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next month, selected LHINs, PHUs and falls prevention experts from across Canada will be surveyed and interviewed in an effort to collect falls prevention leading practices that currently exist. The Falls Prevention Launch Event Planning Committee will also bring forth its suggestions for the launch event to the next Mobilization Committee. The next Mobilization Committee will be scheduled for March, 2011.

For further information, please contact:

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LHIN Collaborative (LHINC)

LHINC is a provincial advisory structure. LHINC engages health service providers, their Associations and the LHINs collectively on system-wide health issues related to the LHINs' mandate.