

# Excellent Care For All.



## Evidence-Based Care

Evidence-Based Care is a treatment philosophy focused on using the very best current evidence to support decision-making about the care of individual patients. Evidence-Based Care also supports better use of health care resources by focusing resources on delivery of care that is known to be effective.

### Avoidable Hospitalization

Reducing the rate of avoidable hospitalization will improve the quality of care, not only in hospitals and ERs, but across the health care system. It will also significantly reduce avoidable costs to the health care system. Avoidable hospitalization includes:

- hospitalization which could have been prevented with better primary care
- readmissions to hospital which could have been avoided through improved care in hospital or after discharge.

Evidence and consultation with practice leaders in Ontario suggests that the province should focus first on ensuring that Ontarians experience safe and effective transitions in care so that their risk of being readmitted to hospital is reduced.

### Schedule of Benefits Changes

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry) needs to ensure that scarce health dollars are focused on the delivery of quality, evidence-based services to Ontarians. While expert bodies provide guidelines, recommendations and reports on the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of medical services, this base of evidence does not necessarily get translated into practice. The ECFA strategy supports a shift toward funding for health care based on evidence-based practices. Funding would be directed to those areas demonstrated through evidence to produce the greatest value, without compromising access to health care services established by experts to be medically necessary.

The ministry is recommending evidence-based targeted changes to the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services (Physician Schedule) under ECFA.

[ontario.ca/excellentcare](http://ontario.ca/excellentcare)

In particular, the ministry is focusing on reducing expenditures on specific testing and interventions shown to have little to no known clinical benefit to patients.

## Supporting Success

### Avoidable Hospitalization Advisory Panel

The ministry has established an Avoidable Hospitalization Advisory Panel to provide advice on the most appropriate measures, targets and timelines for reducing avoidable hospitalizations. The advisory panel will also provide advice on strategies for the identification and sharing of effective transition practices, and monitor the outcomes of capacity building programs designed to reduce avoidable hospitalization. Its initial focus will be on identifying best practices to promote safe, effective care transitions in order to reduce readmission to hospital.

### Health Quality Ontario (HQO)

Health Quality Ontario (HQO) was officially launched on April 1, 2011. It consolidates several programs and organizations, including the former Ontario Health Quality Council, into one entity. Previously, HQO functions included supporting continuous quality improvement and public reporting. With the consolidation, HQO's mandate now also includes promoting evidence-based care and health system monitoring. Specifically, HQO will focus on:

- **Evidence and care standards** – making evidence-informed recommendations on standards of care to improve quality and strengthen adherence to best practice and reduce variation in care;
- **Tools and quality improvement supports** – translating evidence into practical tools and quality improvement (QI) supports to accelerate adoption by health care providers;
- **Reporting and monitoring** at both system and organizational levels to track process and encourage quality improvement;
- **Evidence-based funding recommendations** to the Minister with regards to investments and coverage of health care services and devices.