

Ontario Orthopaedic Expert Panel

Terms of Reference

PREAMBLE:

The Orthopaedic Expert Panel has been created through the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to expand the achievements of the Wait Time Strategy for Orthopaedics and to support efforts to improve orthopaedic care for people across Ontario.

PURPOSE:

The initial focus of the Orthopaedic Expert Panel is to assist the Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN), health care providers and professional groups to create and implement plans to meet the wait times for *hip and knee replacements* of 182 days from the surgeon's office to surgery and for *hip fracture* care of 2 days from admission to surgery by the end of the year 2008/09. To accomplish this, a knowledge translation approach will be used to build upon the current successes in developing best practices being achieved within several of the LHINs, and share these learning's and new methods with those LHINs that are continuing to have difficulty in meeting the provincial wait time targets.

Activities will include: the sharing of patient centered best practice, toolkits introducing models of care, care maps and patient education materials, and ideas for improved use of health professionals; the establishment of provincial benchmarks and performance measurement systems; and, the linking of organizations, experts and professional organizations.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is designed to ensure feedback from across the province and from all aspects of the health system and includes:

- Chair – Dr James Waddell
- Surgeon
- LHIN CEO
- Hospital CEO
- Rehabilitation - medical
- Geriatrics
- Nursing
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy

FUNCTIONS:

The function of the committee is to facilitate best practice care for hip and knee replacement patients and hip fracture patients across the continuum of care.

Activities will include:

1. To develop and/or promote a tool kit that identifies standardized care processes to be used along the full continuum of care by primary care providers, hospitals, surgeons, rehabilitation providers, community care access centres and community agencies;
2. To develop and support standardized comprehensive education and support services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hip and knee replacement and hip fracture;
3. To develop systems that support the use of best practice guidelines;
4. To monitor the programs efficiency and effectiveness through ongoing review of program data;
5. To support efforts to improve other areas of orthopaedics as determined through the Wait Times Strategy for Orthopaedics;
6. Ensure the program aligns with the other programs and Ministry mandates.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Members are responsible for:

1. actively participating in all meetings
2. completing agreed upon tasks between meetings
3. acting as advocates for best practice
4. assisting in making decisions on best practice
5. facilitating in knowledge translation and information sharing
6. providing feedback to the Expert Panel on issues associated with the work of the panel
7. supporting the program and disseminating information through their professional associations.

TIMELINE: The Ontario Expert Panel will be in effect until March 31, 09.

MEETINGS:

The Ontario Expert Panel will meet monthly however meeting frequency will be re evaluated by the group quarterly and can be changed by the Chair. Meetings of the Panel will vary in duration, depending on the meeting objectives, but will generally run for periods of 1 hour. All meeting will be available by teleconference.

WORKING GROUPS:

Working groups of the committee may be created for specific identified projects.