

# Ontario General Medicine Quality Improvement Network

UPDATE  
No. 5  
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31

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

101

Number of members in the GeMQIN Community of Practice

168

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

760,000

Number of general medicine admissions captured

GEMINI—General Medicine Inpatient Initiative

GeMQIN—Ontario General Medicine Quality Improvement Network

## Program Highlights

### MyPractice and OurPractice Reports

After a difficult two years, the most recent pandemic wave has presented unique challenges to our hospital partners. We recognize that this wave was particularly difficult for the general medicine community; thus, out of respect for competing priorities, we have revised the GeMQIN report distribution timeline (see Figure 1).

### We are distributing both the MyPractice (physician-level) Reports and the OurPractice (hospital-level) Report in June 2022.

We recognize that this change may impact local quality improvement planning timelines for some teams; however, with this consideration, we believe a postponing is the right decision to preserve the data integrity of the reports. This timeline will allow more hospitals to resolve data extraction issues and enable robust reporting using strengthened analyses.

Our GeMQIN team has been designing quality improvement programming, which will accompany and support the report releases. Details are featured in the Coming Up Section below.

We appreciate the community's support and flexibility. We are excited to advance the use of the MyPractice and OurPractice report data in general medicine quality improvement initiatives.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Amol Verma and Dr. Fahad Razak**  
Co-Leads of the General Medicine Quality Improvement Network

### Milestone Timeline

Milestone dates are listed in the flowchart below.



Figure 1: Timeline for upcoming milestones

## Community of Practice

### November Call: Post COVID-19 Condition (call recording)

In this session, 84 participants from a diverse range of professional backgrounds joined GeMQIN to learn about post COVID-19 condition. Call participants included health care workers and people with lived experience. **Dr. Fahad Razak**, Co-lead of GeMQIN and member of the Ontario COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Table, reviewed the current scientific understanding of post COVID-19 condition. **Dr. David Kaplan**, Vice President, Clinical Institutes and Quality Programs, Quality, Ontario Health, presented the recently released Ontario Health clinical guidance on post COVID-19 condition for primary care (available in [English](#) and [French](#)). We were also fortunate to have an international expert in post COVID-19 condition, **Dr. Angela Cheung**, Co-lead of the Canadian COVID-19 Prospective Cohort Study, join us for the question period.

### December Call: Problematic Alcohol Use and Alcohol Use Disorder (call recording)

The newly released [Quality Standard on Problematic Alcohol Use and Alcohol Use Disorder](#) was presented by **Dr. Bjug Borgundvaag**, Director of the Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Medicine Institute at the Sinai Health System, and **Dr. Taryn Lloyd**, Emergency Physician & Addiction Medicine Specialist at Unity Health Toronto. Many practical tools and examples were shared, including the [CIWA-Ar scale](#) to assess alcohol withdrawal and a map of [rapid access addiction medicine \(RAAM\) clinics](#) for treatment resources.

### January Call: Therapeutic Updates for COVID-19 (call recording)

This session provided an update on COVID-19 therapeutics. [Current guidelines](#) from the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table were reviewed by **Dr. Andrew Morris**, Co-chair of the Drug & Biologics Clinical Practice Guideline Working Group. GeMQIN also learned about the new process for [accessing clinical assessment centres](#) through a presentation by **Dr. Chris Simpson**, Executive Vice-President, Medical at Ontario Health. Several articles and resources shared on the call are posted on [GeMQIN's online discussion forum](#).

### March Call: Using Labs Wisely in General Medicine during Global Blood Tube Shortage (call recording)

In March, GeMQIN co-hosted a webinar with Choosing Wisely Canada about appropriate lab use during the global blood tube shortage. **Dr. Adina Weinerman**, Chair of the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine Choosing Wisely Committee and Co-lead of [Choosing Wisely Canada's Using Labs Wisely](#) collaborative, highlighted the challenges faced by laboratory medicine groups, and shared insights into how she used her MyPractice: General Medicine report to identify opportunities to aid in their efforts.

## Featured Activities

### [Hospital outcomes of COVID-19 patients with and without a disability \(CMAJ, January 2022\)](#)

A small number of studies suggest that COVID-19 patients with disabilities are at elevated risk for severe disease and death. To inform equitable pandemic supports for all, GEMINI data was examined to assess severe COVID-19 outcomes among hospitalized patients with a broad range of disabilities.

Analyses revealed that patients with disabilities experienced longer hospital stays compared to those without disabilities; an effect that persisted after adjusting for age, sex, long-term care facility residence, medical comorbidity, dementia, and psychiatric disorders.

Additionally, patients with disabilities (age ≤64 years) were more likely to experience unplanned 30-day readmissions than those without disabilities. These findings highlight the importance of a pandemic response that prioritizes the needs of people with disabilities in hospital and after hospitalization.

## Coming Up

### Webinar Calls

- **May 17, 2022 at 12 p.m.**—How can the GeMQIN Practice Reports (individual and hospital-level) support QI?
- **June 22, 2022 at 12 p.m.**—Understanding your MyPractice: General Medicine Report
- **July 2022**—Understanding your OurPractice: General Medicine Report

### Report Releases

- **June 1 to 22, 2022**—Release of MyPractice: General Medicine Reports
- **June 22 to 30, 2022**—Release of OurPractice: General Medicine Reports

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 [GeMQIN@ontariohealth.ca](mailto:GeMQIN@ontariohealth.ca). Past issues of these updates can be found [here](#).

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!