



Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety

Team-based Initiative/Program

Comprehensive Regional Respiratory Care Program

Asthma Research Group Inc. (ARGI), a not-for-profit organization with community-based physician leaders, has utilized the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) knowledge-translation (KT) framework to contribute to multi-level health system innovation, facilitate guideline implementation, and improve health outcomes, with modest program expenditures in community primary care practices. The program, which focuses on **asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and smoking addiction**, aligns with the foundational elements of **Ontario's health system transformation agenda**: patient focus, interdisciplinary primary care, right care at the right time along the continuum, is aligned with LHIN1's strategic priorities – chronic disease and reducing acute care health care utilization, LHIN1 leadership has leveraged the strength of ARGI programs and KT tools to develop and execute a Comprehensive Regional Respiratory Care Program that provides timely, patient-centered, evidence-based care across the continuum of **chronic respiratory disease**.

Using an integrated organizational approach that facilitates transitions between hospital, emergency department, and community health care organizations with a focus on empowering patients through collaborative self-management, ARGI has leveraged collaboration with non-traditional partnerships, including Health Canada/Environment Canada/OLA/Canada Health Infoway/researchers at four Canadian universities to contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of novel processes and tools to improve patient outcomes. The program integrates Certified Respiratory Educators (CREs) as patient education and guideline experts, into health care teams that deliver standardized, individual care within a Quality Improvement framework, including a robust benefits evaluation process. Health system innovations, improved health outcomes, and quality program results have been disseminated internationally in peer-reviewed publications.

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The information provided above is taken directly from 2013 Minister's Medal applications – Facts and information herein have not been verified for correctness.