

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNCIL MAKES QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TOOLS AVAILABLE *On-line Resources for Quality Improvement Teams in Health Care*

Toronto, Ontario (December 11, 2007) - The Ontario Health Quality Council (OHQC) has launched a series of quality improvement tools and resources on their website. These tools will support the efforts of individuals involved in quality improvement in health care from across the province, and bring them together to share their best practices and ideas. The tools are free to access and use.

According to Dr. Ben Chan, OHQC's CEO, "This is a great way for us to support other organizations in their quality improvement efforts. We consulted with a range of health care organizations to determine what tools would be useful as a first step and are pleased to offer these resources on our website. We will continue to make additional resources available on our website, including examples of quality improvement initiatives from organizations across the province."

Some of the tools available include templates and instructions for using project charters, data collection methods, cause & effect diagrams, process mapping, root cause analysis, Pareto charts, failure modes & effects analysis, Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles and run charts. The tools will help organizations define and structure their quality improvement projects, identify sources of quality challenges, monitor and measure against targets, and test and implement ideas for change. The site also provides links to other quality improvement resources.

In addition, OHQC has partnered with the Quality Healthcare Network (QHN) to make the broadcast of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care available to healthcare organizations across the province. The Forum is an opportunity for health care leaders to learn about and discuss ways to improve quality and patient safety in care. Airing December 11-12, the broadcast will include all four keynote sessions, plus five mini keynote sessions.

Dr. Chan looks forward to attending the conference. "The theme of this year's event is 'The Energy of Many' and I think that is a great symbol of how an effective health care system works and succeeds. The discussions and ideas presented at the Forum provide excellent direction for implementing improvement measures in our own organizations here in Ontario. We are pleased to be able to share this valuable information with health care organizations across the province," said Dr. Chan.

The quality improvement tools and information about the broadcast can be found at www.ohqc.ca. Created in September of 2005, the Ontario Health Quality Council has a legislated mandate to report to the public on the quality of the health care system and support quality improvement within it.

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