



For Immediate Release

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New Technique Proposed For Assessing Health Care Options

Canadian Doctors for Medicare (CDM) has developed a tool for assessing proposed models of health care delivery based on the most effective health care practices. This tool is designed to assist physicians, policy makers and health administrators in making sound choices about what health care models they should pursue, based not on ideology but on sound criteria rooted in effective clinical practice.

Over the last several years, there has been increasing growth in the range of delivery models for health care. These models incorporate a range of components including some market oriented, for profit models. There has been concern expressed about the impact some of these models have on the health care available to all Canadians, and even some questions raised about whether or not models comply with the Canada Health Act. However, too often the debate over health care delivery models has been characterized as an ideological debate.

CDM is committed to the *preservation, improvement, and expansion* of Canada's publicly funded health care system. The growth of new model of delivery can be a significant asset to Canada's to the growth and improvement of the health care system, and being new should not be seen as inherently unwelcome.

To date, no clear criteria have been assembled to assess the impact of new models and distinguish those that contribute to the improvement of our health care system from those that detract from it. As part of our commitment to the ongoing improvement of the health care system, CDM has developed the Healthcare Delivery Assessment Tool to assist policy makers and practitioners in analyzing proposed models and ensuring that they do not intentionally or unintentionally create circumstances that diminish the quality of care available to Canadians.

The tool focuses on 4 areas of effective health care delivery:

- Equitable access – all models should ensure universal access to medically necessary services regardless of ability to pay
- High quality care – All models should support and encourage the highest quality of care
- Effective practice – All models should apply effective, clinically indicated practice focused on patient well being
- Effective planning – all models should support a well-planned, integrated, sustainable health system

CDM has developed a series of questions that help those designing or assessing a delivery model ensure that the model considered considers all aspects of those key practices and applies rigorous criteria that ensures those criteria are met.

CDM encourages physicians, policy makers and administrators to use the Healthcare Delivery Assessment Tool to analyze proposed models of deliver and ensure that the services will contribute positively to the health of all Canadians. As the CMA explores new approaches to the delivery of health care, this tool can be use to assess proposed changes and focus the growth of our health care system on new ideas that have a positive impact on care.

Canadian Doctors for Medicare (CDM) is a national, membership-based organization which believes in Canada's publicly funded health care system. The organization's mission is to provide a platform for Canadian doctors who want to strengthen and improve Canada's universal publicly-funded health care system so that it benefits all Canadians.

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