

## Stream 1: Applied Health Services Research Application Form

<b>PROJECT OVERVIEW</b>	
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Development of Medication Safety Indicators	
<b>PROJECT SUMMARY (250 WORDS OR LESS)</b> <p>Indicators, or performance measures, are used frequently to measure health system structures, processes and outcomes. They serve as “screens” or “alerts” that can provide valuable feedback to health practitioners and decision makers and are also key parts of provincial, national and international health comparison reports. At this time, a set of Canadian indicators related to the safety of the medication use system is lacking. The objective of this proposed study is to generate consensus-based medication safety indicators and to test a subset of these indicators in four Atlantic Canadian health authorities.</p> <p>The methodology for this study will be based on three steps. First, the literature will be reviewed identifying potential medication safety indicators, including those used in other countries, to create an initial list of possible indicators. Using a consensus-generating method called the Delphi Technique, this list will be presented to twenty nationally recognized experts in patient safety and medication use to generate a set of Canadian medication safety indicators. Second, once the consensus-based medication safety indicators have been developed, a second panel of sixteen representatives from four Atlantic Canadian health authorities will be asked to prioritize the list of indicators. Third, the five medication safety indicators which are ranked as being the most important will be tested for feasibility, reliability and validity in the four health authorities over a six month period. The study will conclude with a comprehensive knowledge transfer strategy, including partnering with several key national organizations including CCHSA, CCHSE, CIHI, CPhA, CSHP, and ISMP-Canada.</p>	
<b>PROJECT THEME</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Please Describe _____ )	<b>SUBTHEME (if applicable)</b> The indicators to be developed will likely include all four subthemes (an effort has been made to partner with health authorities that deliver care in all four areas).
<b>ARE MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please list _____) <input type="checkbox"/> No There are four health delivery organizations (health authorities) from two provinces (NS, NL), three national professional societies (CSHP, CPhA, CCHSE), one accreditation body (CCHSA) and one medication safety organization (ISMP-Canada) and a health measurement organization (CIHI).	<b>IS THE PROJECT TEAM COMPRISED OF MORE THAN ONE DISCIPLINE?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please List _____) <input type="checkbox"/> No Pharmacy, Nursing, Epidemiology, health executive. Additional disciplines to be represented on the panels that will develop and prioritize the indicators..
<b>DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE CONSULTATION WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING? (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Patients/Clients <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Caregivers <input type="checkbox"/> Members of the Public	

## **Press Release- Funding of New Study on Medication Safety**

Friday, December 2, 2005 : Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dr. Neil MacKinnon, an Associate Professor at Dalhousie University, is the principal investigator of a new study that will focus on the development of medication safety measures. The study, worth over \$200,000 including in-kind contributions, was one of 28 projects funded by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute's inaugural Request for Applications competition, out of 327 project registrations.

"This study will help to set national benchmarks for a safe medication use system that healthcare organizations across Canada could use," said Dr. MacKinnon. "Despite the fact that prescription drugs are now the second largest single health expenditure and one of our main treatment modalities, at this point in time, we have no uniform way of measuring the safety of medications use. This study will help to change this."

The study will use a panel of national experts in medication safety to develop a set of measures, or indicators, which will then be tested in four partnering health authorities in Atlantic Canada: Capital District Health Authority, Annapolis Valley District Health Authority and the IWK Health Centre in Nova Scotia and the Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority in Newfoundland. Several national healthcare organizations including the Canadian College of Health Service Executives, the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation, the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the Canadian Pharmacists Association, the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada are also study partners.

The other members of the multidisciplinary research team include Ms. Nicole Hartnell of Dalhousie University, Mr. David U of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada, Dr. Adrian Levy of the University of British Columbia and Ms. Mary Ellen Gurnham of Capital Health, NS.