

September 21, 2010

\$1 million awarded to identify safety risks with care in homes *Researchers to determine prevalence/magnitude of patient safety incidents*

Toronto, Canada – The Canadian Patient Safety Institute and its partners announced today an investment of more than \$1 million for research that will help protect the safety of the over 900,000 Canadians who receive health care services in their homes every year.

The successful research team, led by Dr. Diane Doran, University of Toronto, and Dr. Régis Blais, University of Montreal, will spend the next two years looking at the prevalence, magnitude and risk of patient/client safety incidents in home care settings across Canada. The 21-member team, which includes clinicians, researchers, and policy and decision makers that have expertise in patient safety and home care services, were awarded the work after a nation-wide research competition drawing some of Canada's leading healthcare researchers.

“The existing literature on the safety of home care in Canada is still vague,” says Doran. “This study, which will take place across several provinces and territories in Canada, will attempt to fill the gaps.”

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute, along with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institutes of Health Services and Policy Research, Aging, Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, and Circulatory and Respiratory Health; The Change Foundation; and the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, awarded the funding to help generate new knowledge to help improve the safety of home care clients.

“We know that adverse events affect thousands of patients every year in Canada,” says Hugh MacLeod, CEO, Canadian Patient Safety Institute. “That is why this research in home care is important to assist with better patient safety outcomes in the continuum of care.”

“For people like my son David – this research will help keep him safe,” says Ivanka Haramina. “My son has been receiving home care for 20 years.”

Results of this research will be released over the next two years. The final report will be released in January of 2013 with the aim of informing change in policy, practice and behaviour in the home care service setting.

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