

# Implementation of evidence-based practices in Ontario's mental health and addictions system

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Significant work is underway to enhance the quality of Ontario's substance use treatment system. Funded by Health Canada's Drug Treatment Funding Program (DTFP), a total of 11 projects are currently being conducted in the province. Two of these projects require significant collaboration with addiction and mental health organizations as they are being implemented across Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)/Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) funded addiction and/or mental health services.

This newsletter provides updates on these two projects:

- Staged Screening and Assessment for Addictions (SS&A)
- Ontario Perception of Care Tool for Mental Health and Addictions (OPOC-MHA)



**Implementation Approach:** Both the OPOC-MHA and the SS&A projects are being rolled out using an implementation science framework. Implementation science is a research-based way to bring evidence to practice. It involves attention to key implementation drivers, fidelity/staying true to the intervention so it can have the intended positive impacts, and sustainability. This implementation work is being supported by a team from within the Provincial System Support Program (PSSP) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

## Provincial Updates

### **Implementation of a new staged screening and assessment process for addictions (SS&A)**

This new SS&A process is now being rolled out across Ontario beginning in about half of the LHINs.

Key activities underway include:

- Implementation plans that take into account the community context are in development in the first wave of LHINs.
- A group of about 65 service providers are in the process of becoming certified trainers for the assessment tool (GAIN Q3 MI ONT). This group will support scale up and sustainability within their respective LHINs.
- The DTFP implementation support team is facilitating training for a small group of early-adopter clinicians from selected agencies.

Important next steps include engaging with remaining LHINs, finalizing the implementation guide currently in development, addressing data collection challenges, and refining the materials and approach used to train service providers based on feedback from early adopters.

### **Implementation of the Ontario Perception of Care Tool for Mental Health and Addictions (OPOC-MHA)**

The OPOC-MHA extends beyond client satisfaction, looking at the client's perception of the services they receive relative to a standard of quality care in key areas. The tool is being rolled out in addiction and mental health organizations across Ontario, with work underway in about half of the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) presently.

Key activities underway include:

- A central, web-based data repository is under construction! OPOC-MHA will have its own technological home, allowing data analysis at program, agency, LHIN and system levels.
- Standardized reports, as well as an implementation guide and orientation webinar, are in development.
- LHIN-level implementation plans are in development for the first wave of the roll out.
- Early adopter agencies and OPOC-MHA site beta testers are being identified.

Important next steps include launching the data repository and beta testing functionality, refining orientation and implementation materials, and building reporting capabilities.

# What's happening in LHIN #13 - North East

Implementation of both the new Staged Screening and Assessment (SS&A) process and the Ontario Perception of Care (OPOC-MHA) tool is well underway in the North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

In the North East LHIN, all addictions and concurrent disorders services will be implementing the new SS&A process. The OPOC-MHA is being implemented by all addictions, concurrent disorders, and mental health services across the LHIN.

In July 2015, the North East LHIN invited service providers working in the fields of mental health and addictions to attend a webinar session about the new tools. They were then invited by the CAMH DTFP team to participate in an implementation team that will guide and provide context for the implementation of both the SS&A tools and the OPOC-MHA across the North East LHIN.

This implementation team, comprised of a cross-section of mental health and addiction service providers, has met monthly since August. Their work to date has included the following:

- Selection of local candidates to become certified trainers for the assessment tool (GAIN Q3-MI ONT).
- Dissemination and completion of the Organizational Readiness to Implement Change (ORIC) tool.
- Selection of early adopters of the SS&A process and OPOC-MHA tool.
- Development of a North East LHIN implementation plan for SS&A and OPOC-MHA.
- Development of a training plan for SS&A.

## Key accomplishments:

- Formation of an implementation team.
- Eight trainer candidates from agencies across the LHIN are well on their way to certification on the GAIN Q3-MI ONT with the possibility of two additional trainer candidates participating in the certification process in spring 2016.
- North Cochrane Addiction Services and South Cochrane Addictions Services were selected as the early adopter group of the SS&A process.
- CMHA Sudbury Manitoulin, CMHA Nipissing, Algoma Public Health and Kapuskasing Counselling will be early adopters of OPOC-MHA and beta testers of the new web-based data repository.
- Training on the SS&A process was provided for early adopter agencies. A two-hour webinar covering the screening tools was held on December 10, 2015, and full-day training on the GAIN Q3-MI ONT was held on December 15, 2015.
- Early adopter agencies are on their way to having staff site interviewers certified on the GAIN Q3-MI ONT. Site interviewer certification prepares clinicians to administer the assessment and use the information for treatment planning with clients.
- The North East LHIN implementation plan and accompanying SS&A training plan have been developed by the implementation team.

## Next steps

SS&A training will continue by hub area, according to the plan developed by the implementation team. Training for the SS&A and subsequent implementation will happen by hub area across the North East LHIN. Agencies will also be engaged in developing agency-specific plans for both the SS&A and OPOC-MHA. A training webinar will be held for early adopters of the OPOC-MHA and the web-based data repository will be ready for beta test by February 2016.

For more information about these and other Ontario DTFP projects, visit <http://eenet.ca/drug-treatment-funding-program-2/> or contact Angela Martella, Implementation Coordinator at [angela.martella@camh.ca](mailto:angela.martella@camh.ca)