President's Quarterly Report

As at March 31, 2020

Canadian Institute for Health Information
Institut canadien d'information sur la santé

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President's update

Strategic activities and outcomes

The following are key accomplishments for each of CIHI's corporate goals for the fourth quarter of 2019–2020.

1 Be a trusted source of standards and quality data

Deliver more timely, comparable and accessible data across the health continuum.

Key accomplishments

Outreach, stakeholder and collaboration activities

- In the fourth quarter, CIHI worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) on the expedited addition of ICD-10-CA codes for confirmed (U07.1) and suspected (U07.2) COVID-19 cases, and updated the Canadian Emergency Department Diagnosis Shortlist (CED-DxS) to include codes for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases. CIHI rapidly communicated these changes to our clients with the aim of improving data capture and reporting for this global health pandemic.
- CIHI has been monitoring the emergence of new virtual care codes during the COVID-19 pandemic. This work includes monitoring changes in policy directions by provincial/territorial (P/T) governments in the use of any diagnosis and fee codes when submitting claims to medical care plans during the pandemic. This type of surveillance is routine for CIHI to anticipate changes in future billing submissions from P/T governments, but it has taken on added importance and profile during the current crisis.
- Since the launch of the Data Access Support Hub (DASH) in February 2020, the CIHI-led DASH team has supported 7 data inquiries from research networks as well as individual researchers. The DASH, funded by the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR), is led by CIHI on behalf of the Health Data Research Network Canada. The DASH allows researchers from various jurisdictions to access data through transparent processes and provides coordinated support for multi-jurisdictional research.

2 Expand analytical tools to support measurement of health systems

Deliver reporting tools, methods and information that enable improvements in health care, health system performance and population health.

Key accomplishments

Outreach, stakeholder and collaboration activities

- CIHI privately released an interactive report as well as a narrative report on electronic medical record (EMR) data for mental health and addictions to the Alliance for Healthier Communities. This was the result of a second pilot project to determine whether the EMR data flow from the Alliance could be used for analysis and linked to CIHI data. The results were broken down at the community health centre (CHC) level; this allowed the Alliance to see the patterns of care within CHCs and the interactions with other parts of the care system. As EMR uptake continues to increase among primary care physicians in Canada, large amounts of clinical data are increasingly available to support secondary uses. Determining how this data can be leveraged and linked to existing CIHI data sources allows an innovative way to explore patient journeys through the care continuum.

Priority themes and populations

- On February 12, 2020, version 1.2 of CIHI's population grouping methodology was released. This version includes home care clinical information and the cost weights (Resource Intensity Weight, or RIW) associated with long-term care (LTC) and complex continuing care (CCC) stays (previous RIWs considered only hospital and physician costs). Additional clinical data allows for a more comprehensive profile of the population's health, and cost weights are more reflective of the full costs to provide care. The additional cost information also provides some insight on the variation in costs for people with similar health conditions treated inside and outside of LTC/CCC. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the population grouper will be re-released to include a new indicator that predicts the risk of being hospitalized for COVID-19.
- On February 20, 2020, Your Health System: Insight was refreshed to include acute care indicator results for Quebec hospitals. These results will allow Quebec to support quality improvement initiatives and accelerate improvements in their health care system. Previously, only Quebec emergency department results were available.

3 Produce actionable analysis and accelerate its adoption

Collaborate with stakeholders to increase their ability to use data and analysis to accelerate improvements in health care, health systems and the health of populations.

Key accomplishments

Outreach, stakeholder and collaboration activities

- CIHI participated in the World interRAI Conference held February 3 to 5, 2020, in Leuwen, Belgium. CIHI was invited to deliver a keynote presentation on CIHI's experience and role, specific to the interRAI instruments. CIHI staff also presented Canadian work on the following topics: modernizing data flow and data standards for community care; public reporting of LTC quality indicators; success stories for sustaining implementation of interRAI instruments; and evolving the education program for LTC and home care instruments. This conference was an opportunity for participants to learn from CIHI's successes and challenges of interRAI implementations and best practices for sustaining an implementation. In addition, 2 special sessions were held: a session facilitated by CIHI on how the international interRAI research community can engage with the policy community, and a meeting with senior Belgian government officials (deputy ministers) focused on policy design and measurement.

Priority themes and populations

- CIHI's approach to Indigenous data, ongoing learning, exchanges and active collaboration with Indigenous organizations is helping CIHI to become a more effective, trusted and valuable partner to Indigenous organizations. In the fourth quarter, CIHI conducted various activities to advance this work:
  - CIHI produced and shared with Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups *A Path Forward: Toward Respectful Governance of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Data Housed at CIHI, January 2020*. The document signals CIHI's commitment to aligning our processes and policies with principles articulated by First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and organizations.
  - In January and February, CIHI continued to support cultural responsiveness by hosting a webinar featuring Harmony Johnson from the B.C. First Nations Health Authority about cultural safety and humility; and by hosting an Indigenous Speaker Series featuring Dr. Jonathan Dewar from the First Nations Information Governance Centre for a discussion on data sovereignty and OCAP® (ownership, control, access and possession) principles.
  - On February 27, 2020, CIHI presented at the Métis Nation Health Forum on CIHI's Indigenous health work and interactive tools.
  - CIHI and the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission jointly submitted an abstract, which was accepted for a presentation at the upcoming fall annual conference of the First Nations Health Managers Association.

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