

## Canadian Medication Safety Coalition

### Progress Report: May 2021

The following is a brief background and progress report on the work of the Canadian Medication Safety Coalition. The intended audience is Steering Committee members.

#### Background

Medication safety has long been a priority among patient safety organizations in Canada. Examples include the multi-stakeholder [Canadian Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention System](#) and the multi-year execution of the [Medication Safety Action Plan](#). Work continues, and medication incidents continue to represent a significant source of harm to Canadians. In March 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a Global Patient Safety Challenge: they called on member states to commit to reducing severe, avoidable medication-related harm by 50% in the next five years, specifically by addressing errors or unsafe practices due to weaknesses in health systems.

#### Canadian Medication Safety Coalition

Spearheaded by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) and built from discussions with industry, the Canadian Medication Safety Coalition formed in 2017 with the aim of boldly accelerating improvement to Canada's medication-related systems. This group brings together private industry partners, patient partners, and leading patient safety and health information organizations. The formation of this cross-sector partnership, coinciding with the Global Challenge, was an opportunity for Canada to demonstrate collaborative leadership in medication safety and achieve together that which may not be possible to accomplish separately.

There were several brainstorming sessions held in 2017 and 2018 where the coalition considered suitable initiatives to advance medication safety that aligned with the Coalition's Terms of Reference.

#### Project Selection

The Steering Committee used a coordinated process to review all initiatives proposed for the Coalition's work. Priority initiatives were selected from 10 proposed initiatives, narrowed down to four shortlisted initiatives which were then evaluated to decide on the initiatives going forward.

In January 2019, a steering committee meeting was held to finalize the selection of initiatives for the next three years based on four criteria and evaluated by each participating organization:

1. Are there any barriers or reasons why we should not embark on this initiative at this time?
2. How likely are you/your organization to contribute
  - a) financial resources?
  - b) personnel resources?
  - c) other resources (specify)?
3. Do you have any suggestions or modifications to the scope of this initiative?
4. Across all initiatives, please specify:
  - a. What is the preferred grouping of initiatives that you would like our Coalition to move forward with at this time?
  - b. Any other comments you would like to share about the initiatives?

The decision-making process led to selection of (i) a patient resource initiative (focus on oxytocin safety) and (ii) an IV standardization project. A third project, NRFit Analysis Project, proposed by BD in 2020, was approved by the Coalition.

### Today

The Canadian Medication Safety Coalition continues to bring together industry, leading patient safety and health information organizations, and patient partners to collaboratively develop bold initiatives to reduce medication-related harm. The Terms of Reference were finalized and approved in May 2020 after a consultative process with all Steering Committee members. The objectives of the Coalition were finalized to:

1. Promote awareness of preventable medication harm.
2. Support greater public engagement in preventing medication harm.
3. Increase government commitment to medication safety at the provincial, territorial, and federal levels.
4. Increase uptake of evidence into action (e.g., implementing interventions to address the WHO's themes of high-risk situations, transitions in care, and/or polypharmacy).

What follows (Table 1), is project summary and status of each project.

Table 1: Project Summary and Status as of May 14, 2021

<i><b>Project number and Focus</b></i>	<i><b>Status/Outcomes/Notes</b></i>
#1: Patient resource (Oxytocin safety)	Completed: March 31, 2021. Outcome: Endorsed by organizations across Canada
#2: IV standardization	Fund raising was held with changes in Committee membership
#3: NRFit Analysis Project	Proposal submitted to industry partner

### What's Next

In 2020 the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) amalgamated with the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI). In the spring of 2021 Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC) was launched as the new organization formed through this integration.

HEC has proposed that the role of financial oversight (previously CPSI role) be reviewed. HEC will continue to fund the role of the Coalition Manager for 2021-2022. New projects will contribute to the Coalition Manager role as well as the financial oversight role.

The strategic priorities of both HEC and ISMP Canada will be defined in their respective strategic planning work scheduled in 2021.

A 2021 brief environmental scan, by the Coalition Manager, to identify potentially similar coalitions in Canada revealed that no similar coalitions exist. **There continues to be a unique opportunity to leverage the combined expertise from industry, patient partners, and health quality and safety organizations.**