

Evaluation approach

The Primary Health Care Opioid Response Initiative (PHC ORI) is a complex intervention, involving provincial partnerships, integrated planning activities occurring at the zone level, and evidence informed practice level change. Correspondingly, it requires an evaluation approach that can tell the story of how the work unfolds and what was learned, what changed, what did not change and why.

The evaluation will focus on project activities under the three *key* priority areas of the grant:

1. Urgent opioid response;
2. Enhancing integrated opioid related service delivery through Primary Care Network Zone Committee engagement, planning and implementation; and,
3. Enhancing provider decision support, knowledge translation and education.

A collaborative evaluation approach (CAE) (Cousins et al, 2015) is guiding and informing this evaluation, a “made in Canada” approach.

The evaluation team will work with project stakeholders to collaboratively design, develop, and implement the evaluation, based on their information needs and interests¹. Examples of principles from CAE being used include “foster meaningful relationships, develop a shared understanding of the program, promote appropriate participatory processes, and monitor evaluation progress and quality”².

To enable the CAE approach with the PHC ORI, an Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) was formed in the summer of 2018 with representatives from each of the provincial partner organizations as well as from the zones. The EAC has been engaged in the development of the logic model, the evaluation questions and design, and the implementation of the evaluation plan.

The evaluation team will also be engaging with patients, their families and those with lived experience to guide aspects of the evaluation.

Evaluation key deliverables

A rapid evidence review of past work to inform the evaluation approach was completed (July 2018). This review has been posted as a resource on the PHC ORI grant website and was carried out to ensure that this evaluation was grounded in the lessons learned from previous applied research and evaluation activities.

A provincial logic model has been created in the fall 2018 and serves as a high level graphic representation of the activities underway and the outcomes anticipated.

The interim evaluation report, due April 30, 2019, will be a process evaluation that focuses on the project’s activities, implementation & service delivery, as well as emerging lessons. Work to plan for this evaluation has begun in late November 2018.

¹ https://evaluationcanada.ca/sites/default/files/20170131_caebrochure_en.pdf

² Shulha, L. M., Whitmore, E., Cousins, J. B., Gilbert, N., & Al Hudib, H. (2015). *Evidence based principles to guide collaborative approaches to evaluation: Technical report*. Ottawa: Centre for Research on Educational and Community Services, University of Ottawa.

The final report will highlight the results of the outcome evaluation as well as the lessons learned. This report will be due March 31, 2020.

Evaluation methods

This evaluation will utilize a mixed methods approach, using regularly collected information whenever possible from sources such as administrative data held in provincial repositories and project management tracking documents (e.g., status reports).

This information will be triangulated with data sources such as electronic medical records (EMR), web usage stats, training registration and related surveys, supplemented with key informant interviews and focus groups to add context. Clinic level data will be captured through measurement work integral to the partner organisation Alberta Medical Association's (AMA) clinical improvement projects (details to be determined as the activities roll out).

Finally, case studies will be utilized to highlight some of the work being done in the planning of services.

A PHC ORI evaluation framework has been finalized that will be comprehensive in nature and guide the next fifteen months of evaluation activities.

Alignment with other work

As part of an evidence informed evaluation approach, the evaluation team will continue to seek alignment with community based initiatives funded by the Minister's Opioid Emergency Response Commission, the Strategic Clinical Networks within Alberta Health Services and national grant funded research projects.

Contact information

For additional information on the evaluation approach, please contact:

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If you would like to invite one of the co-chairs from the Evaluation Advisory Committee to present to your working group on the evaluation approach or the broader evaluation, please follow up and a presentation can be arranged.