



Canadian Wait Times Project

The Canadian Health Coalition
National Roundtable

“Wait Times: The Facts, the Politics and the
Solutions”

Fairmount Chateau Laurier Hotel

Ottawa, Ontario

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Purpose

- ✦ Review the FMM Accord and Mandate
- ✦ Review activities as Federal Wait Times Advisor
- ✦ Review initial proposals regarding efforts required to address waiting times in our health care systems



September 2004 FMM Accord: 10 Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care

- ✦ First Ministers committed to :
 - achieve meaningful reductions in wait times beginning with priority areas such as cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging, joint replacement and sight restoration by March 31, 2007
 - establish multi-year targets by December 31, 2007
 - establish comparable indicators of access to services by December 31, 2005.
 - establish evidence based benchmarks for medically acceptable wait times in 5 areas by December 31, 2005
- ✦ Wait Time Reduction Fund established - \$5.5 Billion (of the \$41 Billion) over 10 years to achieve wait time reductions and augment provincial and territorial initiatives



What Canadians are saying....

- ☀️ Canadians' perception of and experience with waiting times
- ☀️ System accountability



What has been done so far

- ☀ Meetings with:
 - F/P/T Ministers of Health
 - provincial officials to learn about progress within provincial jurisdictions and barriers to success
 - key collaborators - CIHI, CIHR and professional organizations
 - national stakeholder organizations
- ☀ Preliminary proposals regarding wait time management



Phase 1: Benchmarks

Announced on December 12, 2005

1. Cancer
2. Cardiac
3. Joint Replacement
4. Sight Restoration
5. Diagnostic Imaging



Cancer

- - ★ Curative Radiotherapy

- Within 4 weeks of being ready to treat

Cardiac

✦ Coronary Artery Bypass Graft

- ✦ Level 1: within 2 weeks
- ✦ Level II: within 6 weeks
- ✦ Level III: within 26 weeks

Joint Replacement

- ✦ Fixation of hip fractures within 48hrs
- ✦ Hip replacement within 26 weeks
- ✦ Knee replacement within 26 weeks



Sight Restoration

- ★ Cataract

within 16 weeks for
high risk patients

Diagnostic Imaging

★ Mammograms

- ★ Women aged 50-69 every two years

★ Cervical Screening

- ★ Women beginning at age 18 years, every three years to age 69 after two normal pap smears.



Phase II: The Elements of System Transformation

- Ongoing Research: Two Streams
- Management and Innovation
- Information Technology
- Professional Roles and Responsibility
- Public Education



Ongoing Research: Two Streams

1. Develop and promote a plan for a long-term benchmark research program
 - Produce evidence for developing additional benchmarks
 - Scientific review process for the declaration of additional benchmarks using a “trigger group”
 - Address issues of appropriateness
2. Operational research that results in improved system engineering



Management and Innovation

1. Promote adoption of new *business practices* (e.g. queuing theories) by provinces and territories, regions and institutions
 - Single common wait lists
 - First available slot assignments
2. *Use wait time coordinators/navigators* to promote patient centred model of health care delivery
3. Mount a *training program* for health care professionals in key roles
4. Public reporting and transparency regarding wait lists
 - Web- based by Province



Information Technology

- ✦ Integrate IT across health care systems
- ✦ Registry development
- ✦ Potential to link to EHR development
- ✦ Canada Health Infoway has been tasked to begin this process



Professional Roles and Responsibilities

- ✦ Recognize the efforts to date of the medical community
- ✦ Re-establish professional responsibility for timely access to care and the care of patients on wait lists

Professional Roles and Responsibilities (cont.)

- ✦ Move to a clinical and program service-based culture
- ✦ Rebalance influences on professional behavior; team approaches to management (i.e. anesthesia)
- ✦ Development of standard of care regarding wait list and management
- ✦ Emphasize 'appropriateness'
- ✦ Re-engage professional bodies
 - CMA/WTA
 - Specialty Societies
 - Deans of Medicine
 - Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons
 - Canadian College of Family Physicians
 - Provincial Colleges of Physicians & Surgeons



Public Education

- ✦ Address misconceptions and confusion
- ✦ Communicate system solutions
- ✦ Create new communication tools or refine existing ones
- ✦ Showcase successes
- ✦ Communicate our short term and longer-term plans



Additional Issues

- ✦ Prevention
- ✦ Children
- ✦ Surge capacity
- ✦ Health human resources
- ✦ “Cinderella” diseases
- ✦ Gender-based analysis
- ✦ Provincial priority list



Moving Forward....

- ✦ In the short term -
- ✦ In the longer term – system transformation