

Primary Care Reform and Medication Appropriateness for Seniors

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Introduction



For my ARIA project, under the supervision of Prof. Erin Strumpf at McGill University and Prof. Sara Allin at University of Toronto, I conducted the environmental scan portion of their study: Primary Care Reform and Medication Appropriateness for Seniors. Prof. Strumpf and Prof. Allin, along with the other members of the research team gave me a lot of freedom. They even gave me the unique opportunity to design and test the environmental scan methods myself.



Search Strategy Design

This was the first stage of my project. I read health economics papers and drew on their methods to develop my own research method. I then created a list of key terms, and a list of relevant organisations (ministry websites, academic search engines etc.) that I could use to conduct my search. The key term list was made in both English and French, and the key organisation list was made for both Ontario and Québec. This was my first significant challenge, I speak French, but I am not familiar with French medical terminology and I could not simply translate the terms because it is unlikely that Québec would just use direct translations of English terms. I eventually worked through this challenge by using bilingual papers and search engines. Once all of my lists had been completed, I had them reviewed by two McGill librarians and the entire research team.

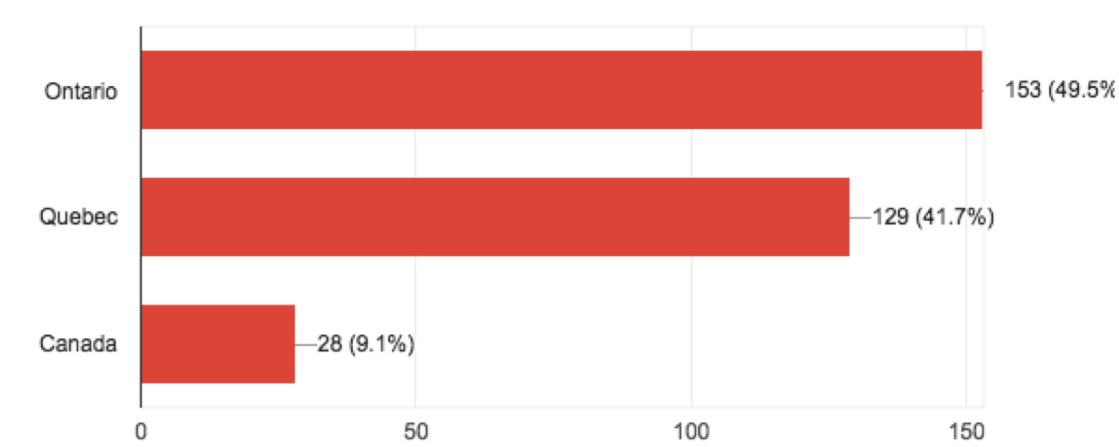
(1) Primary Care	(2) Team-based Care	(3) Referrals (secondary)	(4) Medication	(5) Seniors (Elderly)
primary care primary health care family care (physician) primary care pharmacists general practice family medicine general practitioner	health care team primary care team interdisciplinary multidisciplinary (inter-professional) multidisciplinary (multi-disciplinary) pharmacist prescribing collaboration collaborative practice family health team (FHT) patient's medical home (PMH) multiprofessional	innovation change restructure transform improve strengthen	prescription drugs polypharmacy pharmacovigilance (?) psychotropic medication overuse oversampling medication complications drug interactions contraindications, drug overexposure inappropriate prescribing medication errors abusive drug use (ADEs) drug-related hospitalization adverse reactions drug-related side effects medication management detecting medication review medication reconciliation	seniors elderly vulnerable population (older adults) people geriatric
(1) Soins/Généralistes de Première Ligne	(2) Les Équipes Soignantes	(3) Références	(4) Médicaments	(5) Personnes Âgées (Aînés)
soins de première ligne services de première ligne médecine de famille présentation des soins de première ligne médecine générale pratique générale omnipraticien organisation des soins de santé organisation des services de santé prestataires des soins de santé prestation des services de première ligne	équipes de soins de première ligne pluriprofessionnels (interdisciplinaires) interprofessionnels multidisciplinaires (multi-disciplinares) pharmaciens pharmaciens prescripteurs collaboration pratique en collaboration collaboration interprofessionnelle groupes de médecine de famille (GMF) centres de médecine de famille (CMF) multifonctionnelles (?)	réfèrent des soins de santé primaires réforme des services de première ligne réforme des soins de santé réforme des services de santé réforme du système de santé	polymédication polypharmacie pharmacodépendance maladie psychotrope surutilisation surconsommation complications médicamenteuses (?) interactions médicamenteuses auto-médication, médicament surprescription prescription inappropriée erreurs de médication événement iatrogène médicamenteux hospitalisation liée aux médicaments allergie indolore aux médicaments prescrits les effets secondaires liés aux médicaments gestion de médicaments (gestion médicamenteuse) dépistage	personnes âgées aînés populations vulnérables adultes plus âgés (young) gériatriques

The Search

As I performed the search, I kept notes on content and my search methods. I also downloaded every document that I felt was useful enough to share with the team. In order to catalogue these documents efficiently, I created a Google Form with a series of questions that could be used to summarize a document, and once the form was completed it automatically populated an excel with the answers to each question. The final result was a spreadsheet that clearly summarized every important document that our environmental scan found. When I was getting to the end of my Ontario search, I hit my next major challenge, I was running out of time. I was about half way through my ARIA internship, but I had over half of the project left to complete. I needed a way to make my search more efficient. So I went back to the drawing board and came up with a solution. I created Custom Google Search Engines which are much like a regular Google search except they only search the websites you tell them to. So all I needed to do was create a Google Search Engine that would only search the websites of the key organizations, and then I could search multiple organisations at once!

2. Setting (not place of publication):

309 responses



Policy Review

Having finished the research portion of my project I now moved onto the final portion, creating a policy timeline. The team tasked me with creating a policy timeline for Ontario and Québec that contained every policy between 2000 and 2018 that affected team-based care and/or the medication of seniors. I combed through my research, and created a list of about 50 policies from each province. I summarized each of these policies using an excel, and ranked them based on their effectiveness and relevance to our study. Once I had finished the policy review and it had been reviewed by the team and then revised, I created a short summary of each policy that could be presented to health care professionals when our team conducted interviews in the next stage of the project.

10. Does the source describe a policy, or mention relevant policies?

312 responses

