



Putting Patients First





Health research and health care

Canadian health research has a global reputation for excellence. Despite the quality of this research, Canada faces challenges realizing the potential of this powerful information to deliver high quality and cost-effective care. Currently, 50% of patients do not get treatments of proven effectiveness and up to 25% get care that is not needed or potentially harmful. This care is also expensive. Between 2000 and 2010, public spending on health care increased by 7% per year.

Researchers

Want to develop improved tools and methodologies to conduct successful patient-focused investigations and to better support translation of research into care.

Governments

Want to make effective use of limited resources to deliver timely, safe and effective health care.

Health providers

Want to ensure they are using the best possible evidence to make informed choices about care for patients.

Patients/ health care consumers

Want to participate in management of their own health, contributing to discussions involving care decisions and giving input into research priorities.



Integrating research into care

Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) is a national coalition of federal, provincial and territorial partners (patient advocates, provincial health authorities, academic health centres, charities, philanthropic organizations, pharmaceutical sector, etc.) dedicated to the integration of research into care – the right patient receives the right treatment at the right time.

Patient-oriented research focuses on patient-identified priorities. It produces information for decision makers and health care providers that will improve health care practices, therapies and policies. It ensures that new and innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches are applied when and where needed.

Researchers

Are part of multidisciplinary networks refining and expanding the science of patient-oriented research and providing needed expertise at both the national and local level.

Governments

Are full partners in research that directly addresses provincial/territorial needs.

Health providers

Are able to easily access timely and relevant evidence and integrate this evidence into care decisions.

Patients/ health care consumers

Are active, informed and motivated participants in their own care and have opportunities to define research priorities.



Faster and better integrated care for hip and knee replacement patients

Researchers developed and tested an integrated shared care approach to hip or knee replacement. A single case manager coordinated all required services for patients in a single clinic, simplifying and accelerating the patient journey through assessment, diagnosis and treatment.

Providing quick treatment and minimizing damage from heart attack

Research led to a new model of collaboration between paramedics, emergency ward doctors and heart specialists. In the new model, traditional procedures are bypassed to accelerate diagnosis and treatment of the deadliest type of heart attack.

SPOR WORKS

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Putting SPOR into Practice

Achieving the goals of SPOR involves mobilizing the expertise and resources of stakeholders who have come together in support of the strategy.

Patient engagement: An active collaboration between patients and other stakeholders to guide and facilitate patient involvement in the development and implementation of SPOR.

SUPPORT units: Locally accessible multidisciplinary clusters of specialized research resources, policy knowledge and patient perspective. Provide the necessary expertise to pursue patient-oriented research and help lead reforms in response to locally-driven health care needs.

SPOR networks: National collaborative research networks involving the full range of SPOR stakeholders (patients, researchers, policy makers, academic health care centres, health charities, etc.). Focus on specific health challenges identified as priorities in multiple provinces and territories. Pursue research and help bridge the gap between research evidence and health care practice.

Clinical trials: A national public-private patient collaboration to establish a modernized Canadian clinical research infrastructure, engage patients and attract financial support for patient-oriented clinical studies.

Training and mentoring: A strategy to support researcher training and skills development in patient-oriented research.

For More Information

Visit the SPOR Web site: www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/spor.html

Contact the SPOR office: spor-srap@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

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