

CLEAR NEWS 2017

CLEAR OUTCOMES Newsletter

June 2017

Research Update

Welcome to the CLEAR Outcomes team newsletter. In this issue we will highlight some of the projects we are currently working on, what has been accomplished so far and what is upcoming. Our team has recently made great strides in a number of our ongoing projects and in engaging stakeholders in our research. Be sure to flip to the last page for some CLEAR fun!



Working together to improve care

Image credit: Christine Y. Masuda

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

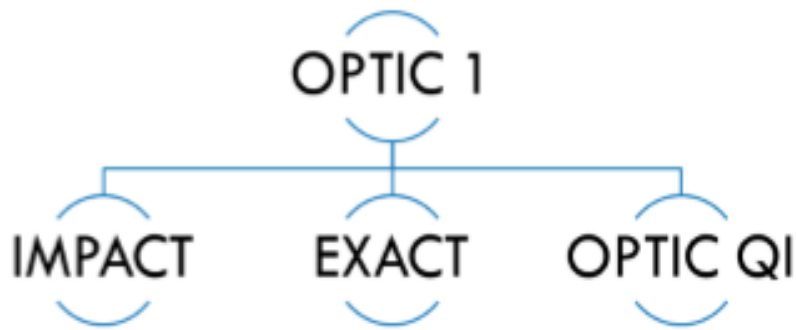
- Andrew Carnegie

Announcement

Dr. Greta Cummings has been announced as the new Dean of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta, effective July 1, 2017. While this will mean some change in her role and responsibilities, she will continue to devote time to CLEAR Outcomes research studies.

In This Issue

- EXACT - *Our study findings and engaging our stakeholders.*
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OPTIC Studies Overview

EXACT

Our EXACT study is now finished.

The Examining Aged Care Transitions (EXACT) study aimed to identify attributes of avoidable transitions and factors influencing decisions-to-transfer in ambiguous cases for transitions of frail elderly Long Term Care (LTC) residents to the Emergency Department (ED).

A total of 80 participants completed the qualitative phase while 351 useable survey responses were completed. Responses varied between LTC, ED and EMS staff, but the greatest agreement in factors contributing to avoidable transfers were regarding family being decision makers and poor understanding by both family and LTC staff of the role of Goals and Care Designations.

Last fall the EXACT Symposium was organized to bring together relevant stakeholders in research, policy, management and front-line health staff from across the province of Alberta. Approximately 35 stakeholders attended, including researchers, decisions makers, managers (LTC, ED, and EMS), frontline staff, and one family member. During the symposium the results of the EXACT study were shared and feedback was sought on implications of the findings for research, practice, policy and education, as well as on the video and decision-making guidelines created as dissemination tools. It was a very engaging day!

A video was created out of the findings of the EXACT study showing factors that contribute to avoidable transfers and how to reduce them. It is intended as a wide-spread dissemination tool and is available on the CLEAR Outcomes YouTube channel.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/6z6QnHfwNa0>

EXACT Decision-Making Guideline

Another product created out of the EXACT study was a decision-making guideline for LTC staff to use in ambiguous situations. Its purpose is to aid in decision-making processes when deciding whether or not to transfer LTC residents to the ED.

It is currently in the process of being pilot-tested by various stakeholder groups to determine the usefulness in LTC settings and how it might be improved. We will be conducting focus groups at 6 and 12 months after implementation to track progress and determine what changes need to be made to the DMG.

IMPACT

Our IMPACT study is now finished.

The purpose of the study was to test a standardized two-page evidence-informed Inter-Facility Patient Transfer form to improve communication between Long Term Care (LTC), the Emergency Department (ED) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The form was used in 90 of 247 resident transitions captured by data collectors across the 11 participating LTC facilities over an eight month period, (February 25 – October 30, 2015). This represented an averaged 36.4% uptake, which varied widely between facilities.

ED and EMS staff scored transfers where the form was used higher, but rarely completed the form in practice. LTC staff completed the form more often than EMS and ED staff, but scored transfers without the form higher in the post-survey. LTC staff reported finding the form burdensome. Future efforts to enhance communication around older persons' transitions in care should balance the workload and benefits or intervention between providers.



Conferences & Presentations

Our team has disseminated its findings through a number of presentations and conferences. Recent conferences members of our team have presented at include:

- Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research Conference, *Toronto, Ontario*
- Canadian Frailty Network Annual National Conference, *Toronto, Ontario*
- International Nursing Administration Research Conference, *Orlando, Florida*
- United Nurses of Alberta, Annual General Meeting, *Edmonton, Alberta*
- Frailty Among the Aged in Canada, Research Canada Forum, *Ottawa, Ontario*
- 5th European Nursing Congress: How Can We Do the Right Things Right? *Rotterdam, Netherlands*
- Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting: Changing Attitudes, Expanding Possibilities, *New Orleans, Louisiana*



Dr. Greta Cummings at the 5th European Nursing Congress

Photo Credit to Guus Pauka

OPTIC QI

We are wrapping up our OPTIC Quality Indicators study. Over the last year we completed a systematic review of the transitions literature (over 10,000 abstracts screened), extracted QIs related to transitions in older people and conducted two rounds of Delphi surveys with experts to rate the scientific soundness, importance, and feasibility of the indicators to transitions in care.

Next steps include a feasibility review by our steering committee of the almost 200 indicators that were retained through the Delphi rounds. The goal is to determine if and how the QIs could be implemented in the Canadian healthcare system to measure and improve the quality of transitions.



FLAME Group Falun, Sweden, June 2017

FLAME

The purpose of the FLAME study is to examine the leadership and facilitation skills needed to enhance evidence-based nursing care at a clinical and organisational level. This will be achieved through a qualitative study of existing leaders and facilitators of evidence-based nursing within four countries: Canada, Australia, Sweden and England.

Progress has been made on the FLAME study, with data collection complete and analysis currently underway. In June 2017 the researchers from all four participating countries met in Sweden to continue analysis and discuss integration of results from the various countries.

Dr. Christy Raymond-Seniuk

Dr. Christy Raymond-Seniuk has been working with Dr. Cummings as an Adjunct Professor while on administrative leave in 2016/2017. She will be joining us formally in a tenure track faculty position starting August 2017. Christy will be the Primary Investigator on the RN4CAST study, which is a new CLEAR research project that is currently in the protocol development stage.

RN4CAST

The original RN4CAST study was completed in Europe and the US and aimed to develop innovative forecasting methods by studying organizational factors, nursing staffing, workplace characteristics and patient care experiences. We will be conducting a replication of the UK study. We are working closely with the original RN4CAST team of researchers from Belgium and the US, as well as an Ontario team for this **groundbreaking work**. **Once ethics, operational approvals and funding are obtained**, surveys will be conducted with nurses working on surgery and medicine units in larger Alberta hospitals.



Dr. Christy Raymond-Seniuk



Kaitlyn Tate, RN

CARNA Rising Star Award

Kaitlyn Tate, one of Dr. Cummings MSN students and CLEAR Outcomes Research Assistant, received the 2017 CARNA Rising Star award.

This is a great honor recognizing her contribution to nursing, both in clinical practice and in service, and her potential to become an exceptional member of the nursing profession.

Link to CARNA Awards page:

<http://www.nurses.ab.ca/content/carna/home/current-issues-and-events/awards-and-recognition/carna-awards/award-recipients/rising-star-award.html>

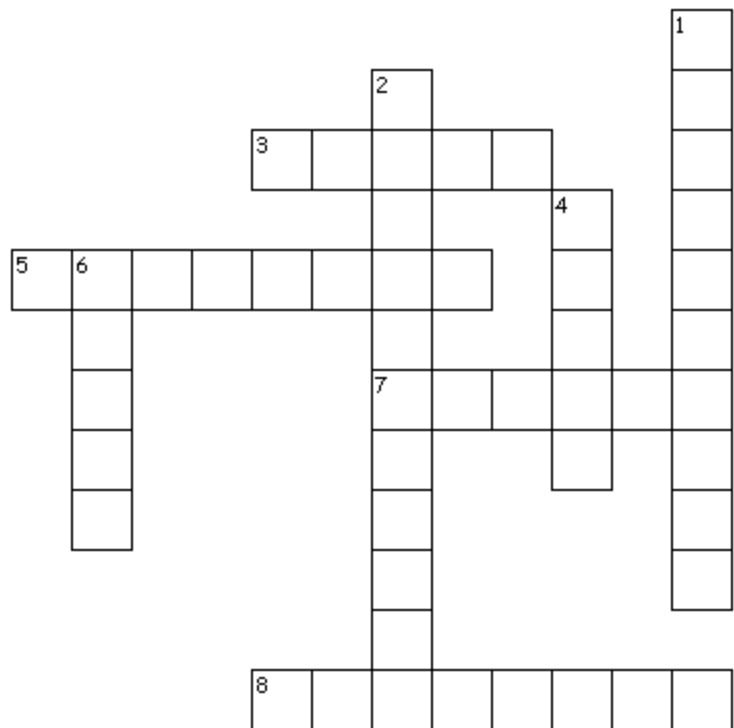
CLEAR Fun

Across

- 3. a care provider
- 5. first word of the video title
- 7. study about improving transitions
- 8. what we do (hint: it involves methods and findings)

Down

- 1. another word for quality measures
- 2. moving from here to there
- 4. name of our research program
- 6. symposium



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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



Canadian Frailty Network

Réseau canadien des soins aux personnes fragilisées

Known previously as Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network, TVN



CIHR IRSC



Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada