



## Nomination

### Mental health and addictions

#### Village FHT

#### Reduced hospitalization rate for COPD in population with serious mental illness



Village FHT has a special interest to provide primary care for people with serious mental illness and addictions (SMI). Our patients with SMI face many barriers to good lung health including low literacy, little control over their living environment, difficulty attending appointments and propensity to smoke. Almost all of our 97 COPD patients also have SMI. In March 2015, our adjusted hospitalization rate for COPD was 9.7pts/1,000, 3x the provincial average. By September 2017, the adjusted hospitalization rate was 1.4pts/1,000, equal to the provincial average.

Education posters for people with low literacy were developed with an educational grant from a pharmaceutical company. Six patients were consulted about the four posters. Their feedback resulted in substantive change to the posters. Many of our COPD patients rely on case workers and boarding home workers to attend appointments. We continue to work closely with this group through outreach. Case workers often attend the education session with the patients and are involved in developing a plan for the patient to take their inhaler correctly.