

BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS



2016

Optimizing Access to Interprofessional Teams Obstetrical Care Team, Centre for Family Medicine Family Health Team

Optimizing Interprofessional Obstetrical Care



The Centre for Family Medicine (CFFM) Family Health Team identified a real need for pre- and post-natal care in the rural communities surrounding Kitchener-Waterloo. To make care more accessible, the CFFM put together an interprofessional team to run an obstetrical clinic in the nearby town of Wellesley. The team includes a nurse practitioner, registered dietitian, family medicine residents, a medical office assistant and community partners such as the local hospital, the Public Health prenatal program and neighbouring family health teams. Not only does it serve the pre- and post-natal needs of these women; it has assumed responsibility for their primary care.

Although the clinic originated in Wellesley, today it is located in urban Kitchener, where it serves a diverse range of patients, including Old Order Mennonites, Syrian refugees and other area residents. The clinic serves all member of the community who need care, ensuring comprehensive care is available to the local population. The OB clinic is also a teaching site for family medicine residents. With their assistance, staff identified an anemia epidemic and obtained a grant to study it, with the findings soon to be published.

Thanks to feedback from the patients, the clinic has tailored services to their particular needs. There are now two new programs: an Introduction to Solids Class and a breastfeeding clinic, implemented with the help of partners and interprofessional staff. The clinic has also begun screening patients for prenatal and postpartum depression, based on patient concerns, and treats cases as they arise. Overall, the team has greatly improved the quality and consistency of primary care in the area.

Members of the interprofessional team are happy to share their model and their findings with others. In addition to the upcoming research paper on anemia, the team has presented at CFFM rounds to discuss both care issues and the interprofessional collaboration that makes the clinic such a success.

Key Facts:

- Identified underserved patients and created an interprofessional obstetrical clinic to provide them with quality, comprehensive care
- Address cultural and social barriers to healthcare, serving many vulnerable patients who fall under the Health Links rubric
- Partnerships with organizations such as the local hospital and Public Health make the OB clinic successful
- 100 per cent of patients previously without a primary care provider are now connected to one

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- 200 residents and 25 health care practitioners have been trained at the clinic since its inception eight years ago
- New programs are introduced annually, based on patient feedback and identified needs
- Interprofessional clinic addresses cultural and social barriers to healthcare
- Constantly adapting to patient needs identified through feedback surveys
- Training ground for more than 200 medical residents and 25 healthcare practitioners to date