



An Introduction to

# THE BETTER PROGRAM

Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance  
October 7, 2021

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# Context



- 3 out of 5 Canadians have a chronic disease<sup>1</sup>
- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of cancers are preventable through modifiable risk factors<sup>2</sup>
- Family physicians lack time, resources & tools to address chronic disease prevention and screening
- There are a plethora of guidelines, many of which conflict or lack rigor

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. Fact Sheet: Government of Canada chronic disease initiatives [Internet]. Ottawa (ON); [modified 2011 Sep 19; cited 2013 Jun 24]

2. Global Toronto. New campaign aims to cut the risk of cancer in Alberta by half. 2014 May 9

Photo source: Retrieved from <http://www.kore1.com/what-to-do-when-deciding-between-multiple-job-offers/www.kore1.com>

# Traditional Health Care Model

Diabetes

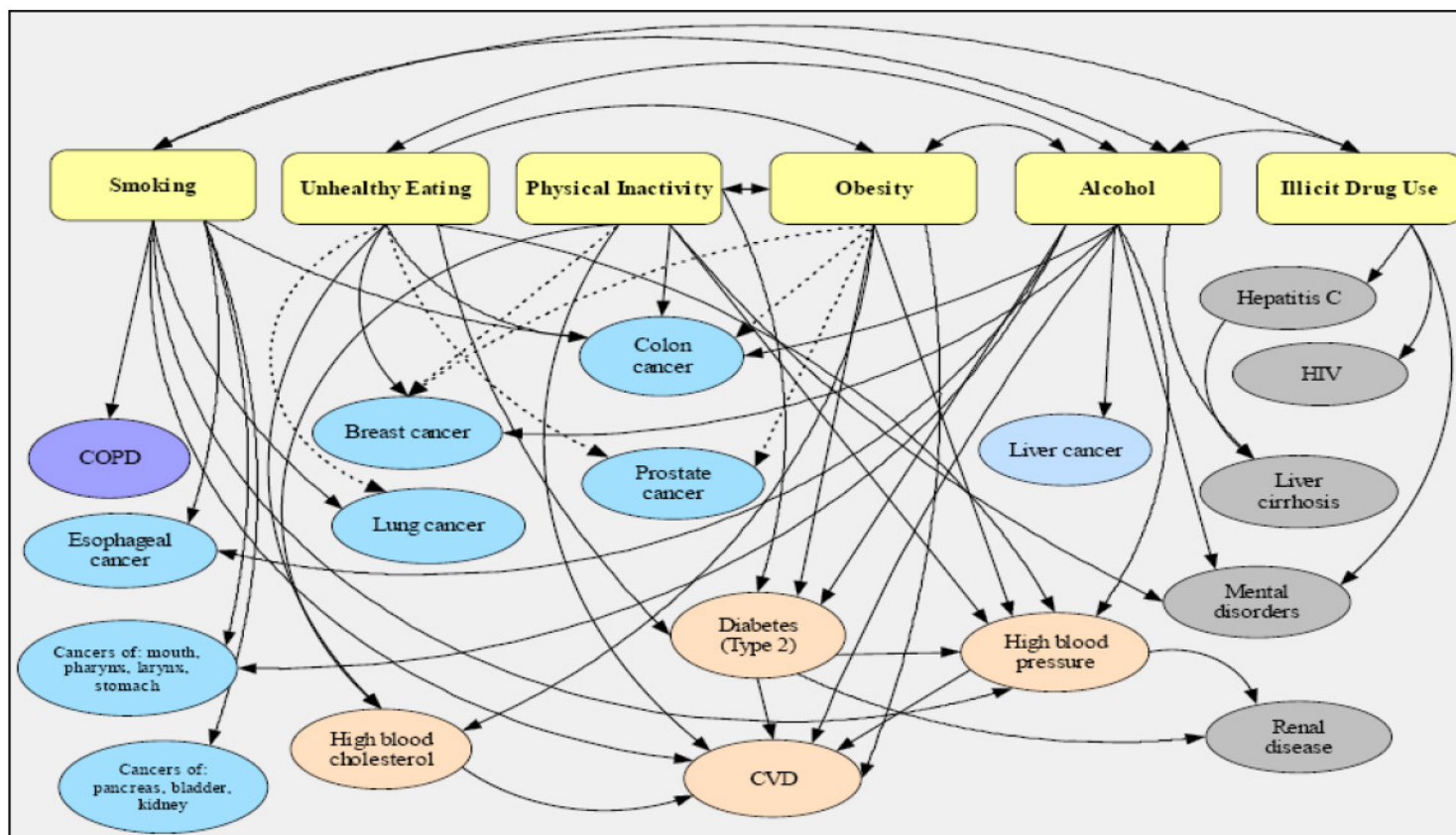
Heart  
Disease

Smoking

Cancer

Mental  
Health

# Reality



Haydon E, Roerecke M, Giesbrecht N, Rehm J, Kobus-Matthews M. (2006, March). Chronic disease in Ontario and Canada: Determinants, risk factors and prevention priorities: Summary of full report. Prepared for the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance & the Ontario Public Health Association. Available from: <http://ocdpa.ca/sites/default/files/publications/CDP-FullReport-Mar06.pdf>

# The BETTER Approach

- Focus on prevention and screening of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and associated lifestyle factors (diet, physical activity, smoking, and alcohol)
- Patients **40 to 65 years of age** are targeted
- Identifies an enhanced role in the primary care setting: the **BETTER Prevention Practitioner™** who is informed by the **BETTER Toolkit**



# The BETTER Prevention Practitioner™



- A member of the practice (e.g. RN, LPN, NP, dietitian etc.) who has been trained to have specialized skills in chronic disease prevention and screening
- Completes a 2-day training session
- Someone who has dedicated time to have prevention visits with patients

# The BETTER Tool Kit

Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month) (day) (year)

## BETTER Health Survey First Visit

Thank you for completing the BETTER Health Survey!  
Your answers will help us provide better care for you.

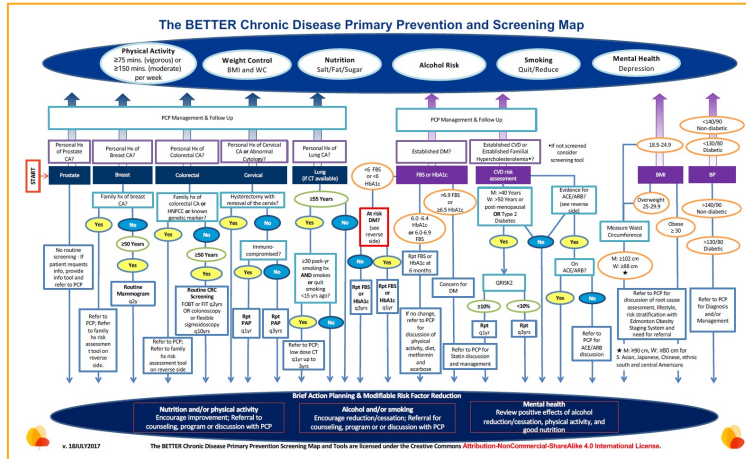
During the visit, you and your healthcare provider will talk about how you can improve your health and the screening tests recommended for you. You will be able to set your own health goals and create a plan to help you achieve them.

Later, your healthcare provider will check with you to review your progress, help you change your plan, if needed, and set new goals.

**INSTRUCTIONS: Please answer all questions as best you can.**  
For each question, please circle the number that matches your answer or fill in the blank as needed.  
Your answers will help your healthcare provider get ready for your Prevention visit.  
You are free to refuse to answer any question you wish.  
If you wish to make a comment on any of the questions, please use the space at the end of the survey.  
You may complete your survey and return it to your healthcare provider, or complete the survey with your healthcare provider.

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v.10/MAR/2019  
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Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (month) (day) (year) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE BETTER PROGRAM**  
Your Health Care Team and You Working Together:  
**THE PREVENTION PRESCRIPTION**

At your visit, we worked together to identify a number of important actions you can take to help prevent chronic disease. This tool can be used to increase your understanding of the recommended guidelines for regular screening around some of the following potential lifestyle concerns and chronic diseases. Together, we can take steps to support and improve your health and well-being!

Screening For:	Status/Results	Target	Re-Check	Referrals/Actions
Cholesterol	Enter measurement value or last value	18.5 - 24.9 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
BMI	kg/m <sup>2</sup>	18.5 - 24.9 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
WC	cm	Men: < 102 cm Women: < 88 cm	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Blood pressure	/	Men: < 130/80 Non-Diab: < 140/90	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Risk Assessment	%	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
ACE/ARB Rec.	Yes/No/Not on Rx	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Diabetes	Yes/No/Not on Rx	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
HDL Cholesterol	Enter measurement value or last value	Men: < 130 mg/dL Women: < 100 mg/dL	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
LDL Cholesterol	Enter measurement value or last value	Men: < 160 mg/dL Women: < 130 mg/dL	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Triglycerides	Enter measurement value or last value	Men: < 150 mg/dL Women: < 130 mg/dL	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Diabetes	Yes/No/Not on Rx	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Sigmoidoscopy	/	Every 10 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Colonoscopy	/	Every 10 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Pap test	/	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Mammogram	/	Every 2 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Lung	/	Every 2 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Lifestyle Concerns	Yes/No/Not on Rx	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Physical activity	Yes/No/Not on Rx	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Diet	Yes/No/Not on Rx	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Alcohol	Yes/No/Not on Rx	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Smoking	Yes/No/Not on Rx	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed
Mental Health	Yes/No/Not on Rx	Every 3 years*	Enter year or time frame	Enter referrals made or action items to be taken or discussed

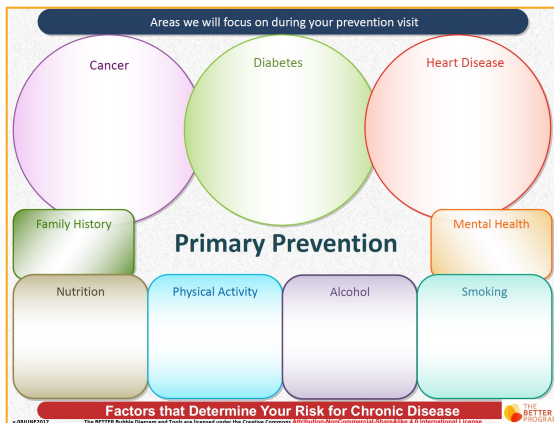
\*These are normal screening intervals. Review patient risk status to determine if they are at elevated risk.

Patient has possible elevated risk for:  
 1. Diabetes: Yes/No 2. Breast cancer: Yes/No 3. Colorectal cancer: Yes/No 4. Cardiovascular disease: Yes/No

Your next prevention appointment is in \_\_\_\_\_ months with:

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Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (month) (day) (year) ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

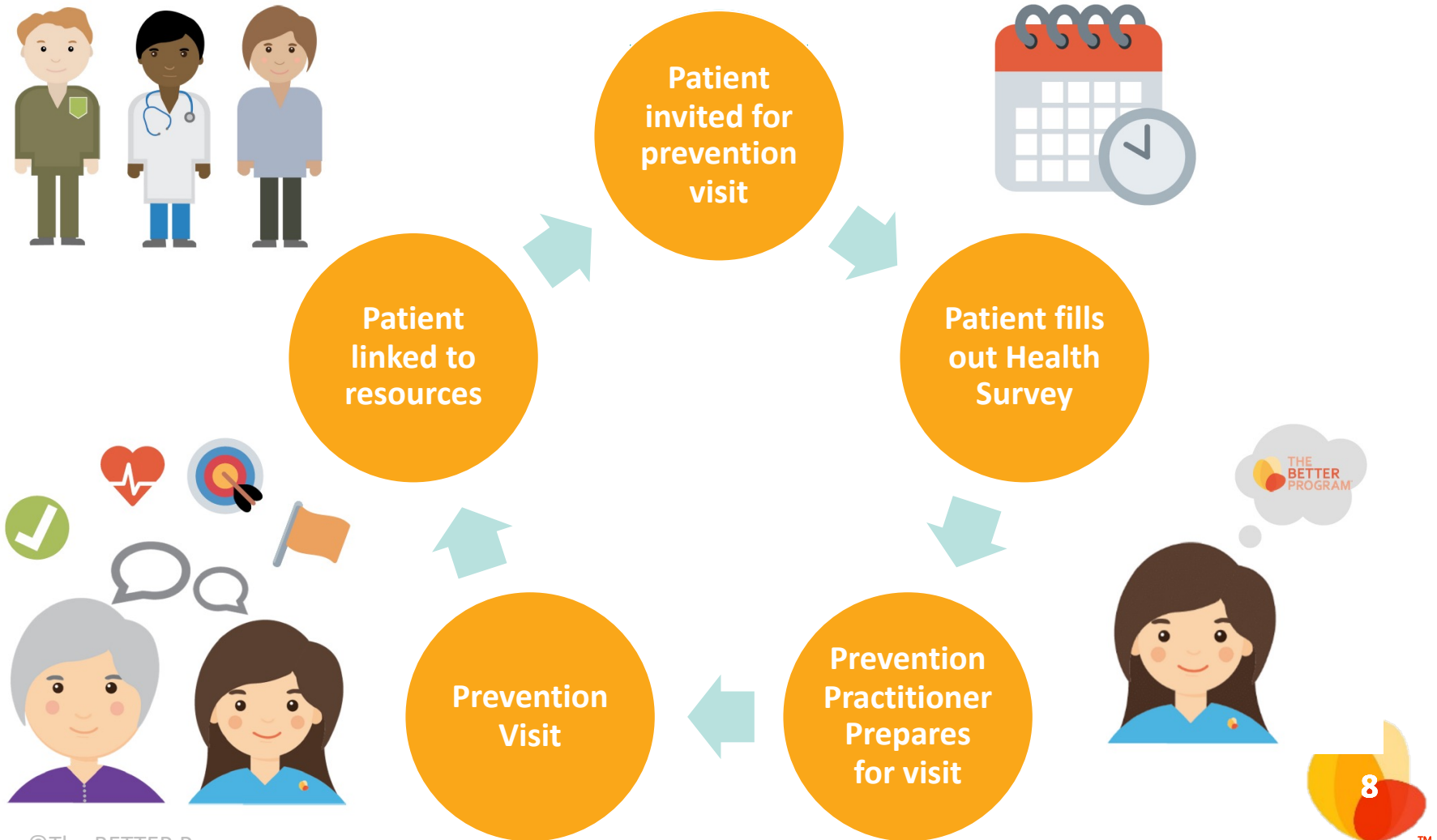
**THE BETTER PROGRAM**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	WAYS I CAN IMPROVE MY HEALTH - WHAT? (Set Your Goal)	HOW MUCH?	HOW OFTEN?	WHEN?	WHERE?	CHECK IN (Who? When? How?)	RATE YOUR CONFIDENCE (Choose One per Goal)
Goal #1							O - Not at all confident 1 - A little confident 2 - Somewhat confident 3 - Very confident 4 - Totally confident
Goal #2							O - Not at all confident 1 - A little confident 2 - Somewhat confident 3 - Very confident 4 - Totally confident
Goal #3							O - Not at all confident 1 - A little confident 2 - Somewhat confident 3 - Very confident 4 - Totally confident

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# The BETTER Process





# The BETTER Trial

## Overall Objective:

To improve prevention and screening in primary care for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and their associated lifestyle factors for patients aged 40-65.

## Specific Objectives:

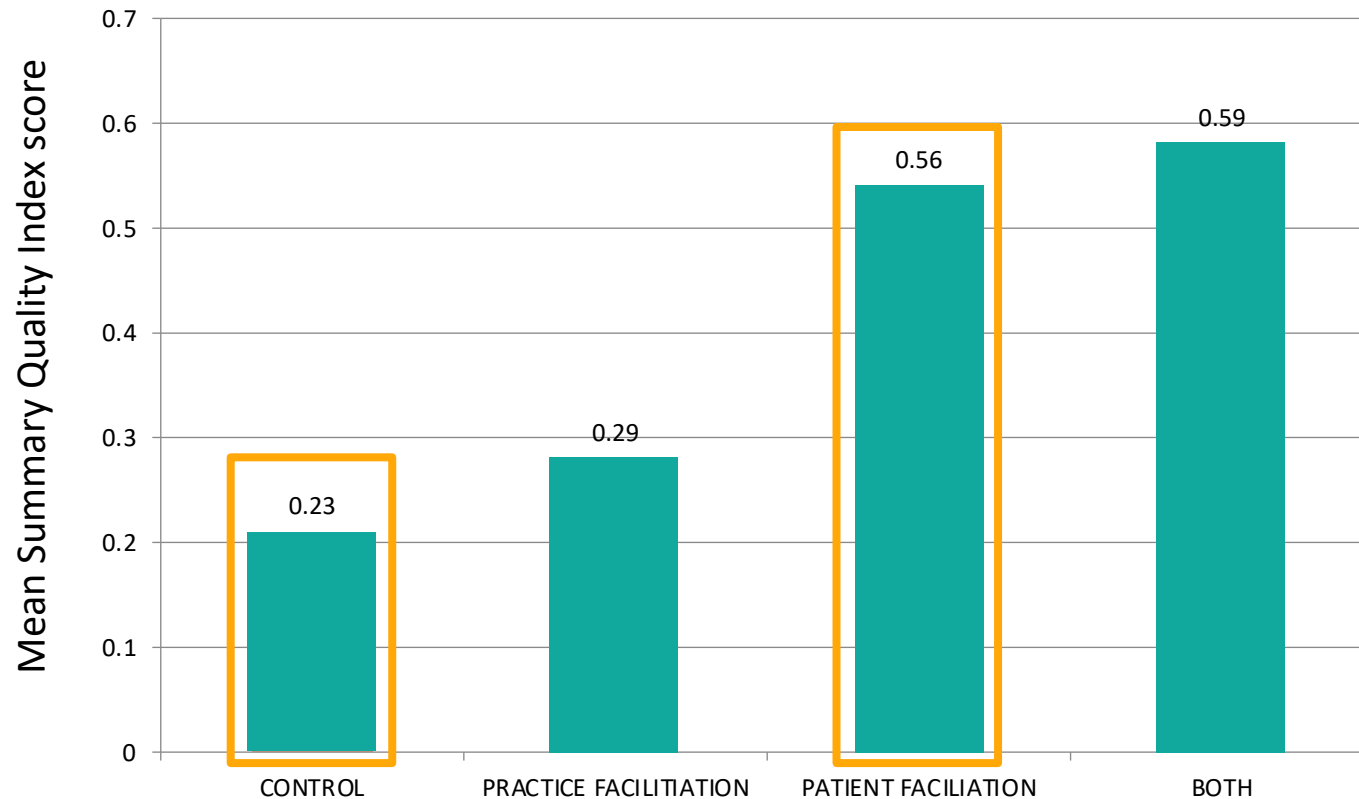
To determine if:

- a practice-level **Practice Facilitator** intervention is effective
- a patient-level **Prevention Practitioner** intervention is effective



# The BETTER Trial

## Results:



Grunfeld E, Manca D, Moineddin R, Thorpe KE, Hoch JS, Campbell-Scherer D, Meaney C, Rogers J, Beca J, Krueger P *et al*: **Improving chronic disease prevention and screening in primary care: results of the BETTER pragmatic cluster randomized controlled trial.** *BMC family practice* 2013, **14**(1):175.

# Patient Perspectives

“[A] very thorough reading [of] my complicated medical history on my 1<sup>st</sup> visit...[the BETTER Program] needs to be a permanent part of health care”

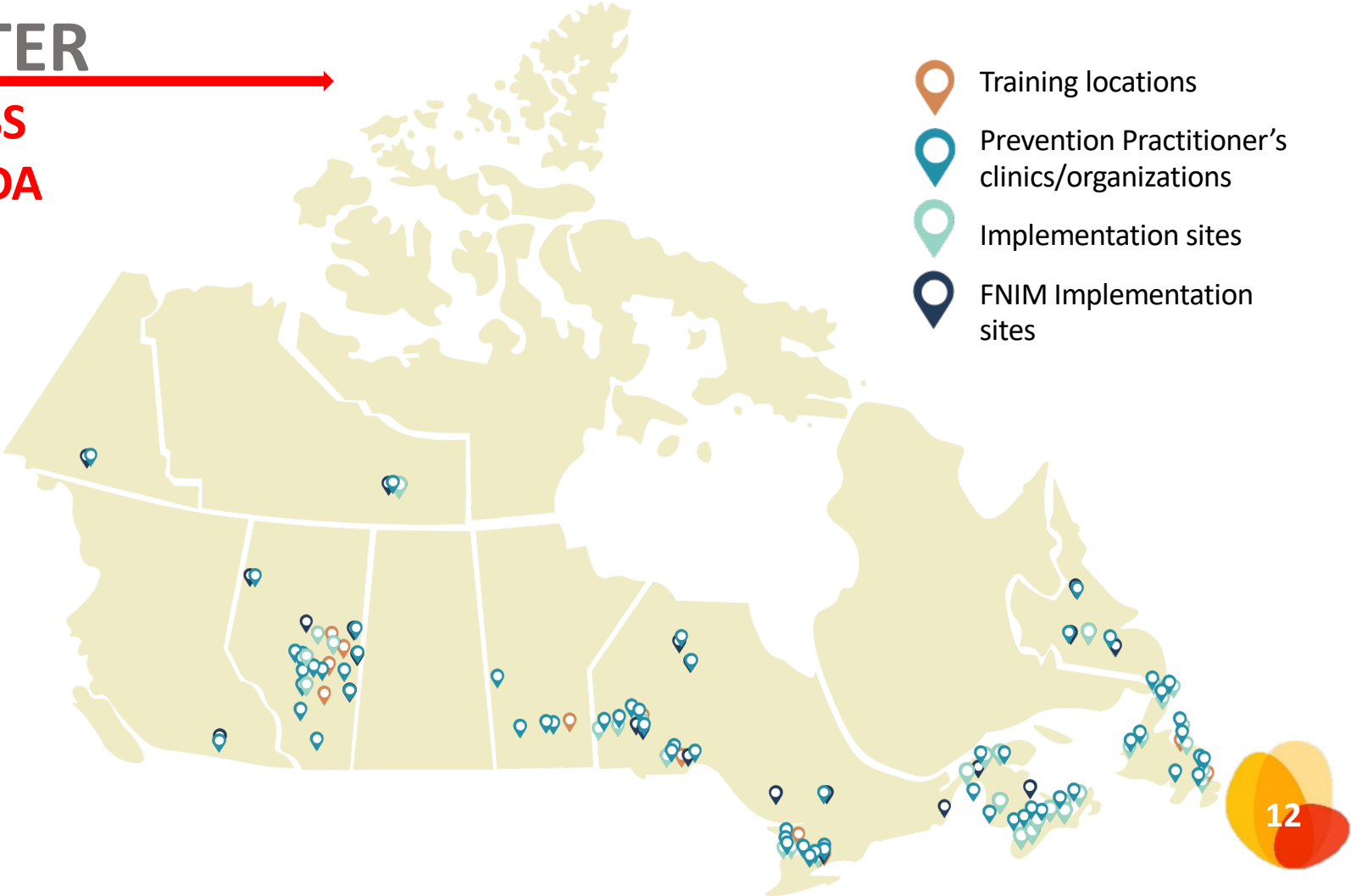
“It was nice to have someone look at the big picture regarding my health and develop a plan for me to go forward. Wish I had someone look from a prevention nature long before this. Bravo!”

“[the prevention visit was] personal, not rushed. She listened. She provided information that was relevant to me”

# BETTER in Canada

**BETTER**

**ACROSS  
CANADA**



# Questions?



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