

## Managing Medications as a Team Workshop

Friday, November 17, 2017 at 10:45am

### Opening remarks

Good morning everyone,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the managing medications workshop.

As chair of the Education Committee representing the Ontario Primary Care Team Pharmacist Working Group, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to AFHTO and specifically Catherine, Laura and Carol for organizing this event. Our pharmacist group had the opportunity to collaborate with AFHTO to develop today's program and I wanted to recognize members of the Education Committee including Lisa Dolovich, Sara Lavoratore, Jadie Lo, Mary Nelson, Karen Peters and Christine Truong. Also a special thank you to Suzanne Singh.

Today we have the privilege of learning from several Family Health Teams across Ontario and taking a look at practical ways of managing medications for our patients. Medication management is a complex process that aims to optimize *safe, effective* and *appropriate* drug therapy. But how do we actually practice this day-to-day? How do we ensure that our patients are taking the safest and most effective drug regimen? A recent study found that one in three Canadians over the age of 65 are prescribed inappropriate medications, costing our health care system over \$400 million dollars<sup>1</sup>. This also becomes a burden in hospitals where 1 in 9 emergency department visits are considered drug-related and close to 70% of these types of visits were deemed preventable<sup>2</sup>. The key word here is "preventable" and this is where the incredible opportunity lies for all of us in primary care.

From a pharmacist perspective, managing medications is the bread and butter of pharmacy and it's what we breathe and practice every single day. But we know that not all Family Health Teams in Ontario have the luxury of a full-time pharmacist, let alone part-time pharmacist on staff. Yes pharmacists are considered medication experts but we are only one piece of the puzzle. In order to make a significant impact on population health, medication management should be an interdisciplinary approach. A European study demonstrated that interprofessional collaboration increased medication safety and reduced drug-related problems in primary care<sup>3</sup>. The challenge though is taking the theory and principle of interdisciplinary medication management and applying this to our everyday practice. But this is exactly why we are here today – to share knowledge and experiences in order to spread innovative practices across the province. Today I hope you take a moment to appreciate how different teams are using creative ways to address some of the challenges faced in primary care such as chronic disease management, pain management, polypharmacy, deprescribing, and transitions in care. Equally important is to reflect on how you can unlock the potential of all members of your own team to improve medication management for your patients and advance collaboration in primary care.

Once again, a warm welcome to everyone here and I hope you learn something today in order to make a difference for your patients tomorrow. Enjoy the rest of the workshop!

<sup>1</sup> Morgan, S et al. Frequency and cost of potentially inappropriate prescribing for older adults: a cross-sectional study. CMAJ Open 2016; 4(2): E346-E351.

<sup>2</sup>Zed, P et al. Incidence, severity and preventability of medication-related visits to the emergency department: a prospective study. CMAJ 2008; 178(12): 1563-1569.

<sup>3</sup>Koberlein-Neu, J et al. Interprofessional medication management in patients with multiple morbidities. Dtsch Arztebl Int 2016; 113: 741-748.