

Helping patients manage low back pain

PANELISTS Dr. Paul Hoogeveen • Dr. Sheri Wark • Dr. Jennifer Young

WITH Dr. Javed Alloo • Dr. Peter Selby • Dr. Stephanie Zhou





Practising Well: Your Community of Practice

August 24, 2022



We acknowledge that the lands

on which we are hosting this meeting include the traditional territories of many nations.

The OCFP and DFCM recognize that the many injustices experienced by the Indigenous Peoples of what we now call Canada continue to affect their health and well-being. Even today, as we meet in this virtual space for reasons of improving wellness, many Indigenous communities face barriers of access to the internet and the opportunities it brings.

The OCFP and DFCM respect that Indigenous people have rich cultural and traditional practices that have been known to improve health outcomes.

I invite all of us to stay mindful and reflect on this from the territories where you sit or stand today, as we commit ourselves to gaining knowledge, forging a new, culturally safe relationship, and contributing to reconciliation.

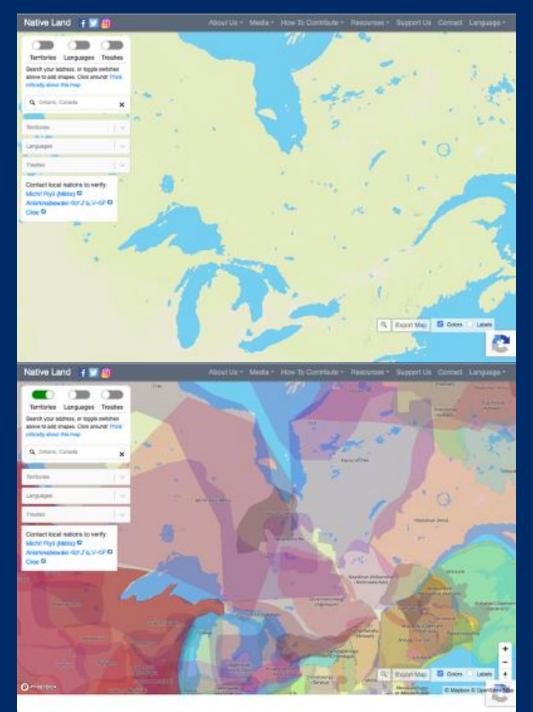






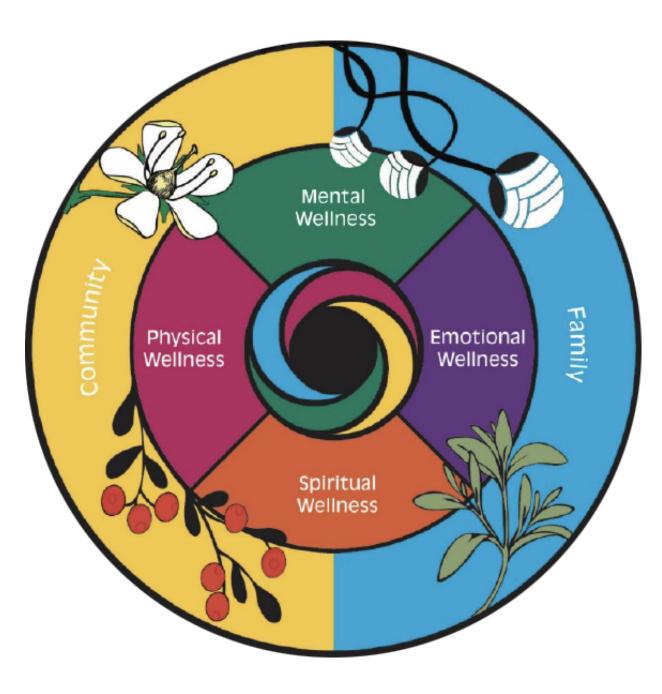
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Medicine Wheel

First Nations, Inuit and Metis Wellness ECHO at CAMH



Your Panelists: Disclosures



Dr. Jennifer Young @jenpatyoung

Relationships with financial sponsors (including honoraria):

- Ontario College of Family Physicians Practising Well CoP Speaker
- CFPC physician advisor (part time)



Dr. Sheri Wark @SheriW_TBay

Relationships with financial sponsors (including honoraria):

Ontario College of Family Physicians – Practising Well CoP Speaker



Dr. Paul Hoogeveen @P_HoogeveenSCPM

Relationship with financial sponsors (including honoraria):

- Ontario College of Family Physicians Practising Well CoP Speaker
- Neurolytix Shareholder, Advisory Board Member, various neurological diagnostic tests

Disclosures

Dr. Stephanie Zhou @stephanieyzhou

Relationships with financial sponsors (including honoraria):

- Ontario College of Family Physicians Practising Well Implementation Group Member
- Canadian Medical Association Honoraria for practice management lectures
- Habitat for Humanity GTA Board of Directors member

Disclosures

Dr. Peter Selby @drpselby

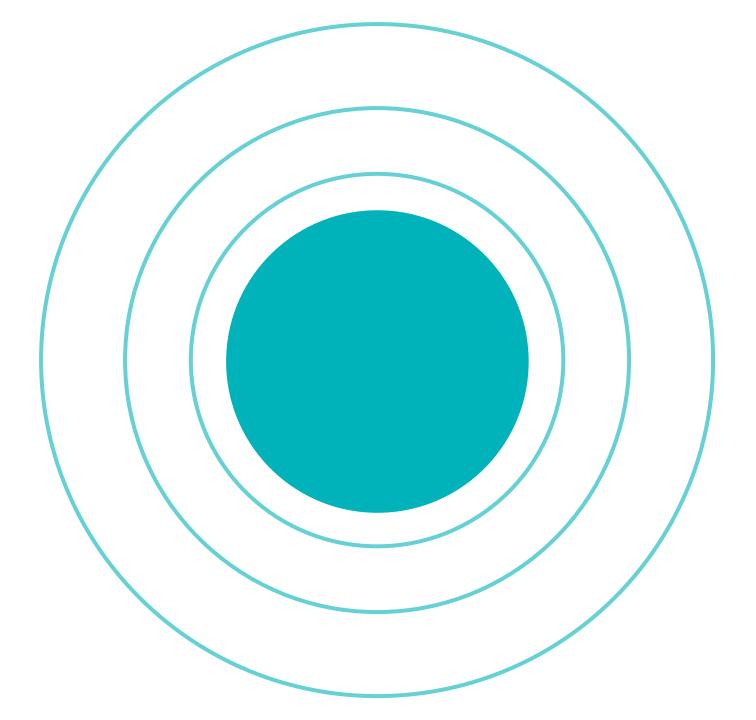
Relationships with financial sponsors (including honoraria):

- York Region, CAMH, ECHO, ASAM, FAME, Local CHC, Veteran's Affairs Canada Honoraria
- CCSA, Cancer Care Ontario, ECHO Ontario, MOHLTC, CAMH Medical Advisory Committee, Dalla Lana U of T Youth Vaping Cessation Advisory Board or Advisory Committee Member
- CIHR, Health Canada, Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, Medical Psychiatry Alliance, MOHLTC, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, CAMH, Public Health Agency of Canada – Grants and Clinical Trials
- Pfizer Inc, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis Vendors of record for providing smoking cessation pharmacotherapy through an open tendor process, free or discounted, for research studies in which PS is the principal investigator or co-investigator.
- Ontario College of Family Physicians Practising Well

Dr. Javed Alloo @javedalloo

Relationships with financial sponsors (including honoraria):

- Ontario College of Family Physicians, Ontario Medical Association, Centre for Effective Practice, Centre for Addictions and Mental Health, Trillium Hospitals, Memotext, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer – Honoraria, Consulting, Employed
- Canada: Novo Nordisk, Boehringer Ingelheim, Lupin, Astra Zeneca Advisory Boards
- CIHR, U of T Research Grants





Helping patients manage low back pain

You raised important questions we'll try work through together today:

- 1. What to do differently in managing acute vs chronic low back pain?
- 2. What are appropriate pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions that make a difference?
- 3. What to do when both low back pain and mood disorders or depression co-occur?

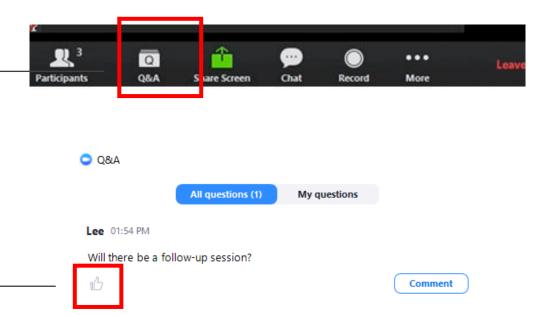
And other questions you add in the Q&A box... ?

How to Participate

A&O

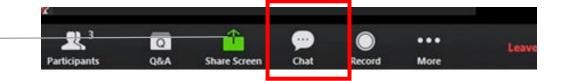
Use the Q&A window to ask questions to the panelists; some questions will be answered verbally and some answers will be written directly in the Q&A window.

Click "thumbs up" to up-vote questions you see on the list, to make sure they're answered



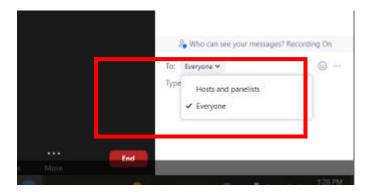
How to Participate

Chat



Use the chat to share reflections or resources.

To send your message to everyone on the call today, make sure to select **"everyone"** from the dropdown menu.



Please introduce yourself in the chat!

Your name, Your community, Your twitter handle

@OntarioCollege
#PractisingWell

How common is low back pain?



The epidemiology of low back pain in primary care. Kent PM, Keating JL. Chiropr Osteopat. 2005; 13: 13. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1208926/

Progression of low back pain from acute to chronic in primary care?

If care involved interventions not aligning with guidelines (on opioids, imaging or subspecialty referral) in the first 21 days after presentation:

HR 1.39 to 2.16

(if 1, 2, or 3 non-concordant interventions)

Risk Factors Associated With Transition From Acute to Chronic Low Back Pain in US Patients Seeking Primary Care. Stevans JM, Delitto A, Khoja SS JAMA Netw Open. 2021;4(2):e2037371 https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2776518



Your Panelists



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Collingwood, ON @jenpatyoung



Dr. Sheri Wark

Thunder Bay, ON @SheriW_TBay

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Dr. Paul Hoogeveen

Barrie, ON @P_HoogeveenSCPM

PEER Simplified Chronic Pain Guideline: Summary Treatment Interventions for Discussion with Patients

Physical Activity

- chronic low back pain and osteoarthritis
- Patients can choose the activity they better than another!





Psychological Therapy

About 30-60% of patients with chronic pain will get pain improvement with cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) or mindfulness-based stress reduction compared to 10-30% with control (e.g. wait list or no intervention).

Treatment Options

Percentage of patients who will have pain meaningfully reduced (≥30%):

	OSTEOARTHRITIS	CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN	NEUROPATHIC PAIN		
		CARE AND AN AND AN AND A CHIEF A			
Add-on option	Psychological therapy is an option for	r patients with any of these condition	15.		
Foundation of treatmentPhysical activity is the foundation of a treatment plan for osteoarthritis and chronic low back pain.Add-on optionPsychological therapy is an option for patients with any of the Placebo or control: 40%Additional treatments with clear evidence of benefitIntra-articular corticosteroids: 70%SNRIs: 61% Oral NSAIDs: 58%Oral NSAIDs: 58%Topical NSAIDs: 51%SNRIs: 50%Treatments with unclear benefitGlucosamine Chondroitin ViscosupplementationTreatments with evidence of no benefitActaminophenCorticosteroids (epi corticosteroids)Corticosteroids (epi corticosteroids)	Placebo or control: 40%	Placebo or control: 29%			
	Intra-articular corticosteroids: 70%	Oral NSAIDs: 58%	Gabapentinoids: 44%		
clear evidence	SNRIs: 61%	Spinal manipulation: 55%	SNRIs: 42%		
	Oral NSAIDs: 58%	TCAs: 53%	Rubefacients (e.g. capsaicin): 40%		
	Topical NSAIDs: 51%	SNRIs: 50%			
		100 TO \$ 00 TO \$ 00 TO \$	TCAs		
		Rubefacients (e.g. capsaicin)	Cannabinoids Topical nitrates		
evidence of no	Acetaminophen	Corticosteroids (epidural)	Acupuncture Topical ketamine, amitriptyline, doxepin or combinations		
Treatments with harms that exceed benefit	Opioids Cannabinoids	Opioids Cannabinoids	Opioids Topiramate Oxcarbazepine		

For more information, see https://pain-calculator.com.

No responder analyses identified for: osteoarthritis (rubefacients, platelet-rich plasma injections, TCAs), low back pain (acetaminophen, muscle relaxants, SSRIs, anticonvulsants, topical NSAIDS), neuropathic pain (exercise and lidocaine).











PEER Simplified Chronic Pain Guideline: Summary

Key Adverse Effects

TREATMENTS			COST ¹ (3-MONTH)	
Placebo ~5% (2-9%)				
Acetaminophen		Liver damage in overdose	\$25-50	
Acupuncture	STOPPING DUE TO ADVERSE EFFECTS ~5% (2-9%) Not statistically worse than placebo or control 6% 6% 10% 12% 12% 12% 12% 16% 27% 5 5	None reported as greater than placebo		
Chondroitin or glucosamine				
Corticosteroids (intra-articular or other injections)		Infection (one in ~50,000) ² ; post-dural puncture headache with spinal injection	\$25-50	
Physical activity		Mild muscle soreness	\$0-500+	
NSAIDs (topical)	6%	Application site reactions	\$50-75	
Rubefacients (e.g., capsaicin) 6%		Local burning, skin redness	\$50-75	
Cannabinoids	10%	Dizziness, nausea, drowsiness, confusion	\$150-300+	
Gabapentinoids	12%	Dizziness, peripheral edema, weight gain	<\$50-150	
SNRIs	12%	Dizziness, sedation, stomach upset, weight loss	<\$50-300	
TCAs	16%	Dry mouth, dizziness, drowsiness	\$25-150	
Opioids.	27%	Sedation, dizziness, constipation, pruritis, vomiting, nausea, dependency, overdose	\$75-300	
NSAIDs (oral)		Stomach upset, gastrointestinal bleeds, increased blood pressure, worsening kidney problems, new or worsening heart failure; increased risk of myocardial infarction with some NSAIDs	\$50-100	
Psychological Therapy		Not reported		
Spinal manipulation	Not reported	Case reports have associated neck manipulation with stroke. ³	\$150-300+	
opical agents (nitrates, amitriptyline, ketamine, doxepin)		Local reactions; Nitrates: headache, palpitations possible	Nitrates: <\$25; Others: \$175-300	
Viscosupplementation		Injection site reactions	\$150-300+	

References: 1) Prescription drug costs taken from https://pricingdoc.acfp.ca and https://www.mckesson.ca. 2) Jones T, Kelsberg G, Safranek S. Am Fam Physician. 2014; 90: 115-6.3) Nielsen SM, Tarp S, Christensen R, Bliddal H, Klokker L, Henriksen M. Syst Rev 2017; 6(1): 64. Illustrations by Storyset: https://storyset.com/

Physical Activity Prescriptions available from RxFiles

Practice Points

(https://bit.ly/ExerciseRxFiles)

on functional outcomes

- Start/titrate/taper/stop one medication at a time to allow for accurate monitoring of response or adverse effects

· Adding a second drug is reasonable when the initial agent provides a partial benefit

· Goals of treatment should be patient-identified, realistic and focused

NSAIDs = non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs; SNRIs = serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors; TCAs = tricyclic antidepressants



ALBERTA COLLEGE of FAMILY PHYSICIANS Family Physicians





Patients with the following emergent red flags should be referred directly to the closest Emergency Department:

Possible Cauda Equina Syndrome (saddle anesthesia about anus, perineum or genitals; urinary retention with overflow incontinence; loss of anal sphincter tone/fecal incontinence)

- ➤ Progressive neurologic deficit
- ➤ Significant trauma

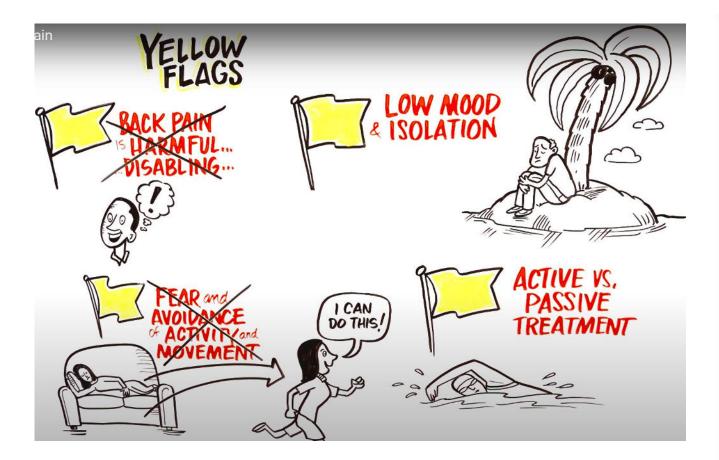
Red Flags (check if positive)

The acronym NIFTI can help you remember red flags. 21, 22, 42, 43

Indication	Investigation 🕤 🖍
Neurological: diffuse motor/sensory loss, progressive neurological deficits, cauda equina syndrome	Urgent MRI indicated
Infection: fever, IV drug use, immune suppressed	X-ray and MRI
Fracture: trauma, osteoporosis risk/ fragility fracture	X-ray and may require CT scan
Tumour: hx of cancer, unexplained weight loss, significant unexpected night pain, severe fatigue	X-ray and MRI
Inflammation: chronic low back pain > 3 months, age of onset < 45, morning stiffness > 30 minutes, improves with exercise, disproportionate night pain	Rheumatology Consultation and Guidelines

Acute Cauda Equina syndrome is a surgical emergency. ²³ Symptoms are:

- Urinary retention followed by insensible urinary overflow
- Unrecognized fecal incontinence
- Distinct loss of saddle/perineal sensation



Attitude is everything!! Hurt vs Harm and AVOID Kinesiophobia (encourage movement)

Yellow Flags^{21,22,24}

Psychosocial Risk Factors for Developing Chronicity

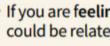
For those with low back pain > 6 weeks or non-responsive to treatment, consider asking:

Questions to ask	Look for
"Do you think your pain will improve or become worse?"	Belief that back pain is harmful or potentially severely disabling.
"Do you think you would benefit from activity, movement or exercise?"	Fear and avoidance of activity or movement.
"How are you emotionally coping with your back pain?"	Tendency to low mood and withdrawal from social interaction.
"What treatments or activities do you think will help you recover?"	Expectation of passive treatment(s) rather than a belief that active participation will help.

A patient with a positive yellow flag will benefit from education and reassurance to reduce risk of chronicity. If yellow flags persist, consider additional resources: Keele StarT Back⁴; The Patient Health Questionnaire for Depression and Anxiety (PHQ-4).²⁵

No yellow flags -

Continue reviewing history



If you are feeling symptoms of sadness or anxiety, this could be related to your condition and could impact your recovery, schedule a follow-up appointment.

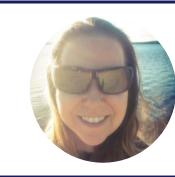


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Initial Management depending on pattern

	Pattern 1	Pattern 2	Pattern 3	Pattern 4	Non-Mechanical Pain	
Commonly Called 27	Disc Pain	Facet Joint Pain	Compressed Nerve Pain	Symptomatic Spinal Stenosis (Neurogenic Claudication)	Non-spine related pain	
Medication ^{5,6,7}	 Acetaminophen NSAID 	 Acetaminophen NSAID 	 May require opioids if 1st line pain meds not sufficient 	 Acetaminophen NSAID 	Consider other etiologies	
Recovery Positions ²⁸				Å	prior to pain medications Consider internal organ pain referral such as kidney,	
Starter Exercises ²⁹	Repeated prone lying passive extensions (i.e. hips on ground, arms straight). 10 reps, 3 x day	Sitting in a chair, bend forward and stretch in flexion. Use hands on knees to push trunk upright. Small frequent repetitions through the day	"Z" lie (see image above) Caution: exercise will aggravate the pain so start with pain reducing positions	Rest in a seated or other flexed position to relieve the leg pain	uterus, bowel, ovaries	
Exercises	ISAEC ³⁵ ; <u>HealthLink BC</u> ³⁴ ; SASK Pattern 1 ³⁰	ISAEC ³⁵ ; HealthLink BC ³⁴ ; SASK Pattern 2 ³¹	ISAEC ³⁵ ; <u>HealthLink BC</u> ³⁴ ; SASK Pattern 3 ³²	ISAEC ³⁵ ; <u>HealthLink BC</u> ³⁴ ; SASK Pattern 4 ³³	☐ Spine pain does not fit mechanical pattern	
Functional Activities ³⁶	 Encourage short frequent walking Reduce sitting activities Use extension roll for short duration sitting 	 Encourage sitting or standing with foot stool Reduce back extension and overhead reach 	Change positions frequently from sit to stand to lie to walk	Use support with walking or standing. Use frequent sitting breaks	Consider centralized pain medications (i.e. anti-depressants, anti-seizure, opioids)	
Follow-up	 2-4 weeks if referred to therapy, or prescribed medication PRN if given home program and relief noted in office visit 	 2-4 weeks if referred to therapy, or prescribed medication PRN if given home program and relief noted in office visit 	2 weeks for pain management and neurological review	G-12 weeks for symptom management and determination of functional impact	Consider pain disorder	
Self Management ³⁷⁻⁴⁰	Once pain is reduced, engage patient for self management goals	Self management can be initiated in 1st or 2nd session with most patients	Patient is not usually suitable for self management due to high pain levels and possible surgical intervention	Self management can be initiated in 1st or 2nd session with most patients		

ISAEC = Inter-professional Spine Assessment and Education Clinics; SASK = Saskatchewan Spine Pathway Group Healthy Back Exercises

You may need pain medication to help you return to your daily activities and initiate exercise more comfortably. It is activity, however, and not the medication that will help you recover more quickly. ^{14, 22, 41}

(5) Short acting opioid medication may be used for intense pain such as leg dominant constant symptoms related to nerve radiculopathy. 14, 22, 41

6 Low back pain is often recurring and recovery can happen without needing to see a healthcare provider. You can learn how to manage low back pain when it happens and use this information to help you recover next time. ^{14,22,41}

https://www.lowbackrac.ca/patient-materials.html

НОМЕ	ABOUT VIRTUAL CARE	EXERCISE VIDEOS	PATIENTS	PCPS	RAC CLINICIANS	CENTRAL	INTAKE	CONTACT US	
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Program Information for Referred Patients



Patient Pamphlet Download File

RAC LBP Illustrated Exercises for Patients



Back Dominant Pain with Extension Download File



Back Dominant Pain with Flexion Download File



Constant Leg Dominant Pain Download File



Intermittent Leg Dominant Pain Download File





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Links to resources shared today will be sent to participants following the session.

Resources

Ontario Health Quality Standards

Low Back Pain Quality Standard <u>https://www.hqontario.ca/evidence-to-improve-care/quality-standards/view-all-quality-standards/low-back-pain</u>

Low Back Pain Quality Standard Placemat https://www.hqontario.ca/Portals/0/documents/evidence/quality-standards/qs-low-back-painplacemat-en.pdf

Resources Guidelines

PEER simplified chronic pain guideline - <u>https://www.cfp.ca/content/68/3/179</u>

Resources Websites – For You

CORE Back Tool (CEP) <u>https://cep.health/media/uploaded/CEP_CORE_Back_2016.pdf</u>

Managing Pain Through Mindfulness https://neuronovacentre.com/

Gentle Movement @ Home <u>https://painbc.ca/gentle-movement-at-home</u>

Impairment Scale – American Spincal Cord Injury Association <u>https://www.physio-pedia.com/American_Spinal_Cord_Injury_Association_(ASIA)_Impairment_Scale</u>

Imaging Tests for Lower Back Pain <u>https://choosingwiselycanada.org/pamphlet/imaging-tests-for-lower-back-pain/</u>

SPACE RCT: Opioid vs Nonopioid Medications on Pain-Related Function in Chronic Pain (Back, OA-Hip/Knee) Full: <u>https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2673971</u> Summary: <u>https://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/SPACE%20Trial%20Summary.pdf</u>

Resources Websites – For Your Patients

Low Back Pain Patient Resources https://www.lowbackrac.ca/patient-materials.html

Pattern #1-4 Saskatchewan Spine Pathway (exercises) https://www.hhfht.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/back-exercises.pdf

Tame the Beast – It's time to rethink persistent pain (video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikUzvSph7Z4

Low Back Pain Video from Dr. Mike Evans https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOjTegn9RuY

Free ICBT Programs https://www.afhto.ca/news-events/news/free-icbt-programs-supported-ontario-government-duringcovid-19-pandemic

Resources Education



Links to resources shared today will be sent to participants following the session.

Peer Connect

An opportunity to partner with another family physician, one-to-one or in a small group, for support as you explore clinical complexity and increase your confidence caring for patients with mental health challenges, substance use, and chronic pain. A focus can be on your well-being as you engage in this challenging work.

Connect Now!



Contact us! practisingwell@ocfp.on.ca



https://www.ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/educatio n-practice-supports/practising-well/peer-to-peerconnect

Understanding Quality Standards in Primary Care Program

Low Back Pain Quality Standard

Earn **1.5 Mainpro+**[®] credits for reviewing the <u>Low Back Pain</u> quality standard package.

To learn more, or to enroll in the program, contact: <u>UnderstandQS@ontariohealth.ca</u>





This one-credit-per-hour Self-Learning program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Ontario Chapter for up to 48.75 credits



Resources Education

Saskatchewan Spine Pathway

Low Back Pain Assessment and Management Training Course

Home Register Training Course



Saskatchewan Spine Pathway http://spinepathwaysk.ca/Home/Register



ECHO Chronic Pain and Opioid Stewardship

@ UHN https://uhn.echoontario.ca/Our-Programs/Chronic-Pain

• Thursdays 12:30-2:00pm via videoconference

@ St. Joseph's Care Group <u>https://sjcgecho.squarespace.com/chronic-pain-opioid-stewardship</u>

• Back to (Pain) School Sep 7 – Oct 12 via videoconference

Save the date!



January 27 and 28, 2023



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Resources Supports



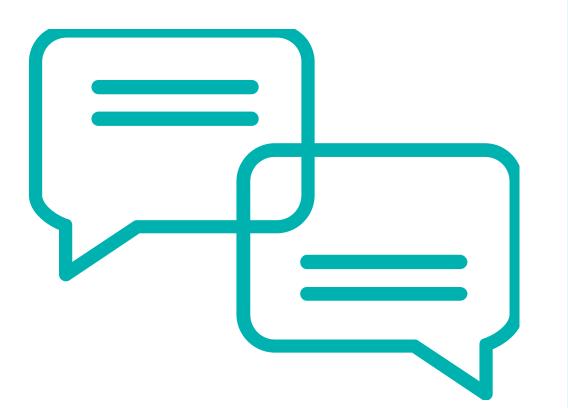
(formerly known as ISAEC) Funded by Ontario Ministry of Health

Rapid Access Clinics for Low Back Pain (in-person or virtual care) <u>https://www.lowbackrac.ca</u> (regional information: <u>https://www.lowbackrac.ca/contact-us.html</u>)

Accepting referrals from enrolled family doctors or nurse practitioners (onboarding referrers: <u>https://www.lowbackrac.ca/refer-to-rac-lbp.html</u>)

"It is designed to decrease the prevalence of unmanageable chronic low back pain, reduce unnecessary diagnostic imaging as well as unnecessary specialist referral."

This pathway is appropriate for patients with a wide variety of non-emergent lumbar diagnoses and presentations (< 1 year in duration or those with recurrent episodic low back pain) and addresses issues ranging from most non-urgent disc conditions, spinal stenosis, and axial / non-specific back pain. (Inclusion / Exclusion criteria: <u>https://www.lowbackrac.ca/faq.html</u>)



One thing you might do differently...

when helping patients manage low back pain?

Special Evening Session Upcoming Community of Practice

Even short appointments can help with Substance Use Disorders (Motivational Interviewing)

With Drs. Kimberly Lazare, Peter Selby and Stephanie Zhou

September 28, 2022 <u>7:30pm – 8:30pm</u>

Register Now

practisingwell@ocfp.on.ca

This one-credit-per-hour Group Learning program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Ontario Chapter for up to 1 Mainpro+ credit. The Practising Well Community of Practice includes a series of planned live, interactive sessions. Each session is worth 1 Mainpro+ credits, for up to a total of 24 credits.

Thank You!

Please help us make these sessions better by filling out the evaluation you'll receive by email shortly.

Direct Credit Entry



Do you want the OCFP to submit your earned Mainpro+ credit directly into your Mainpro+ account?

Please email practising well@ocfp.on.ca with your 6-digit CFPC number (Hint: Your CFPC # begins with a "6").