



The Need to Know...

Funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research
(Community Alliances for Health Research)

Director: Patricia Martens

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)



Manitoba
Centre for
Health
Policy



CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
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en santé du Canada



≡ NATIONAL AWARD ≡ for "Textbook Example" The Need to Know Project



Dr. Pat Martens, Director of the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Project Director for *The Need to Know* Project, received The Knowledge Translation Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) November 22, 2005. This was awarded to her, MCHP and *The Need to Know* team.

The following is from the CIHR website: "The CIHR Knowledge Translation Award recognizes merit in an exceptional individual or team currently involved in a collaborative health research or development project that aims to advance and expand the understanding of knowledge translation and also leads to improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened health care system.

Since 2001, *The Need to Know* Team of the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP), headed by Dr. Patricia Martens, has been a **textbook example** of KT in action." "Researchers, regional health authority representatives and provincial planners collaborate on research from the development of the research questions through to ensuring that the resulting data are used in evidence-based decision making and planning. Working together as a team

builds capacity among both academics and planners and facilitates dissemination and application of research results in the 'real world' of decision making.

This CIHR-funded Community Alliances for Health Research team has built on MCHP's vision of KT, whose data has been of critical importance in helping provincial planners and policy makers make evidence-informed decisions to reduce discrepancies in health status and reconfigure health services. MCHP's mission is to 'provide accurate and timely information to health care decision makers, analysts and providers, so they can provide services that are effective and efficient in maintaining and improving the health of Manitobans'. MCHP's web-based resources for health services researchers around the world, such as its highly acclaimed Concept Dictionary, help to ensure sharing of knowledge on how to use administrative data-

bases to answer questions pertinent to the health of populations and the improvement of health care services."

See CIHR's website for more on the awards and CIHR: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29970.html>



The Need to Know Project Director, Dr. Pat Martens accepts the CIHR Canadian Health Research Award for Knowledge Translation in Ottawa November 2005

- From Evidence to Action - Update

The first phase is nearly complete of presentations and consultations related to the *From Evidence to Action** (FEA) research project are nearly complete. Presentations have been made to management teams within the RHAs and consultations (in the form of key informant interviews and focus groups) have been conducted with various staff and Board members of the RHAs.

Preliminary review of the consultation results indicate a fair degree of similarity between regions with respect to the barriers they face in evidence-based decision making. Key barriers identified include (in no particular order): access to computers, library resources and the internet; insufficient time/skills for research and analysis; insufficient funds for securing resources required (computer hardware & software, education/training, library

services); and, timely information from Manitoba Health/Statistics Canada/other sources.

Initial discussions within the regions about the format of the assessment tool/strategy indicate varying interest in self-assessment tools. A few RHA staff members have indicated that an external assessment would be more beneficial for their regions and provide increased learning and capacity building. Input will continue to be obtained from the RHAs as we get closer to the development of the assessment tool/strategy. (Tannis Erickson, *From Evidence to Action* Research Coordinator)



*see NTK newsletter Vol. 11, Fall 2005, p.2 for FEA project overview. It is available via the NTK website: <http://www.rha.cpe.umanitoba.ca/newsletters.shtml>

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www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp
(link to *The Need to Know* website from here)

F.Y.I.

- the **third *The Need to Know* deliverable** was released this past October 2005 titled: *Sex Differences in Health Status, Health Care Use and Quality of Care: A Population-Based Analysis for Manitoba's regional Health Authorities*
- reports can be obtained by contacting MCHP (204-789-3669) or downloading them from MCHP's website (at left)

Fall 2005 Meeting Highlights

Last October 17 marked the **14th *The Need to Know* Team meeting**, and the **12th annual Rural and Northern Health Care Day** (October 18, 2005).

The Need to Know Team meeting focussed on brainstorming ideas for the upcoming **What Works deliverable** - an extra report to be completed by *The Need to Know* Team in addition to the three reports mandated in the original project proposal. The purpose of this report is to examine different program or policy interventions looking at population-level effectiveness over time, within and between regions and districts.

Tannis Erickson and Sarah Bowen updated the Team on the progress of the **From Evidence to Action project** (for more details, see *From Evidence to Action - Update* on p.1).

The afternoon began with two presentations: Dr. Rob Robson, WRHA Director of Patient Safety, presented information to the Team on issues related to patient safety. MCHP researcher Greg Finlayson presented information on the methodology being used in an upcoming

MCHP deliverable on Needs-Based Funding Methodology.

The afternoon came to a close with a facilitator training session that prepares Team members for facilitating the roundtable discussions of research reports at the next day's Rural and Northern Health Care Day. Reports highlighted for this year's roundtable discussions were (i) the *Patient Safety report* (Dr. Sharon Bruce) and (ii) *Personal Care Home Quality of Care Indicators report* (Dr. Malcolm Doupe).



Attendance at the Rural and Northern Health Care Day continues to grow each year, with this year's numbers reaching a record 207 registrants!

This year's **Rural Day** also featured (i) stories from some of *The Need to Know* Team members on how they have put research into action, (ii) an overview by Randy Fransoo of the newly released *Sex Differences Deliverable - The Need to Know Project's third report*, and (iii) a panel discussion on Quality of Care and Patient Safety issues for rural and remote areas (panelists: Dr. Dean Sandham, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba; Dr. Roger Strasser,

Dean, Northern Ontario School of Medicine; Dr. Paul Thomas, Duff Roblin Professor of Government, University of Manitoba).

Registrants' evaluations of the day were once again overwhelmingly positive!

Congratulations Sue!

Sue Crockett, *The Need to Know* Team member from Northern Man Regional Health Authority, was awarded the 2005 Quality Champion award by the QNET/Manitoba Quality Network this past November (www.qnet.mb.ca).

The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals who demonstrate the characteristics of a quality champion such as cooperation, teamwork, leadership through involvement and by example, respect for individuals, continuous improvement, fact based decision making and concern for stakeholders and society.

Sue was recognized most notably for the development of the Quality Scorecard, used as a benchmark by the Canadian Council for Health Services Accreditation. Well done Sue!



Sue Crockett with Marilyn Robinson, Co-Chair of the 2005 QNET Excellence Conference

Thanks Shirley!

Thanks to Shirley Dzogan for her support of *The Need to Know* Team. Shirley is no longer on the Team due to changing jobs at Manitoba Health.

***The Need to Know* Team Members:**

RHA MEMBERS:

- Jody Allan
- Faye White
Assiniboine
- Bev Cumming
- Nancy McPherson
Brandon
- Marion Ellis
- Mieke Busman
Burntwood
- Shelley Buchan
Central
- Randy Gesell
- Ken Grant
Churchill
- Tannis Erickson
- Doreen Fey
Interlake
- Sue Crockett
- Catherine Hynes
Nor-Man
- Bonnie Frith
- Suzanne Dick
North Eastman
- Maggie Campbell
Parkland
- Patti Fries
South Eastman
- Janet Bjornson
WRHA Liaison

MANITOBA HEALTH MEMBERS:

- Deborah Malazdrewicz
Health Information Management
- Lorraine Dacombe Dewar
Community Health Assessment
- Eilish Cleary
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Shahin Shoostari
Regional Support Services
- Heather Sparling
Community Health Assessment
- Rachel McPherson
Health Information Management
- Bob Li
Epidemiologist

MCHP PROJECT MEMBERS:

- Pat Martens
Director
- Randy Fransoo
Researcher
- Sarah Bowen
Evaluation Researcher
- Elaine Burland
Research Coordinator
- Charles Burchill
Systems Analyst
- Heather Prior
Main Programmer
- Linda Kostiuk
Finance Coordinator
- Kristin Backhouse
Planning Coordinator
- Janine Harasymchuk
Website & Software
- Jeremy Dacombe
Research Assistant
- Jen Magoon
Research Assistant
- Linda Romphf
Research Coordinator

