



Occupational
Cancer
Research
Centre

Completing the Picture: Collecting workplace exposure information from community health clinics' patients

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OCRC Steering Committee Meeting

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Objectives



Objective:

- Determine whether it is feasible within a clinical setting to ask workers about their exposure
- Determine whether it is possible to establish a basic screening and surveillance system of occupational risks and hazards based on such data
- Determine whether the data can be considered 'robust and uncontested' enough to be evidence-based knowledge to inform policy efforts and decision making

Funders & Partners



- Funders: CCSRI & CIRH, \$369,680
- Partners:
 - Centre for Research Expertise in Occupational Disease
 - Centre for Research Expertise for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders
 - Laurentian University
 - Waterloo University

The Project



- Occupational exposure survey is added to the intake process
 - Evaluation focuses on barriers & facilitators to feasibility of asking patients about their work exposure at intake
 - Survey is administered to clients age 16 or older, currently working or have worked in Canada in the last 6 months
- Sites: six community health clinics
 - Geographically, demographically, economically diverse community health centers or nurse-practitioner led-clinics

Exposure Survey



- Part 1: General information
 - About employment, company postal code, industry sector
- Part 2: Screening (present-day exposure)
 - Exposures in the air, excess stress, exposures on the skin, physically demanding tasks, noise
- Part 3: Surveillance
 - Asbestos (present & past exposure), shiftwork (present & past exposure), sun exposure (present exposure), safety hazards (present exposure)

Update



- Ethics has been approved by the Community Research Ethics Board
- Building relationship with Bramalea Community Health Centre
 - Beginning six month pilot intervention in January
 - Sub-grant agreement is complete
- Other confirmed clinics:
 - North Lambton Community Health Centre (West Lambton Site, Sarnia)
 - Capreol Nurse-Practitioner Led-Clinic (Sudbury)

Next Steps



- Running pilot at Bramalea Community Health Centre
- Relationship building with recruited clinics, including completing sub-grant agreements
- Recruiting 3 more clinics
 - Have 5 letters of support from CHCs
- Completing ethics at Laurentian University
- Collaborating with Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers HCOW & Public Service Health & Safety Association about their contributions