



Consulting Chiropractic Role in Primary Care Demonstration Project

An Ontario Chiropractic Association primary care initiative to manage low back pain (LBP) before, rather than after a referral to advanced imaging and medical specialists.

The Project had three key features:

1. Assessment clinic using evidence-based tools
2. Guideline-based decision support for physicians
3. Community Network of evidence-based providers

Key Findings:

1. Satisfaction

- High patient satisfaction (94%)
- Higher provider satisfaction (All made reference to value of referring LBP patients to the assessment clinic)
 - Quicker access and faster diagnosis of patients.
 - Majority of primary care providers perceived the assessment/management of LBP as being of higher quality than physicians.

2. Knowledge Transfer

- Increased Physicians':
 - Confidence in assessing and managing LBP patients.
 - Knowledge of appropriate imaging and specialist referral for LBP patients (reported a decrease in referrals for imaging and specialists).
 - Identification and management of psycho-social variables for LBP patients.
 - Awareness and understanding of the role exercise and physical activity can play in managing low back pain patients.
 - Increased chiropractors' knowledge of medication management for LBP patients.

3. Value

- From the perspective of the physicians, quick turnaround between referrals to the assessment clinic resulted in:
 - Increased reassurance for the patient.
 - Increased patient confidence in diagnosis and treatment options.
 - Decrease in patients requesting referrals to specialists or diagnostic imaging.

For more information on this project or a complete copy of the project report results, contact:

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