MAPPING A PAIN STRATEGY FOR SASKATCHEWAN: FINDINGS FROM STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Susan Tupper, PT, PhD
Saskatoon Health Region

INTRODUCTION

In this era of restrained healthcare spending, there is urgent need for a provincial strategy to guide development of sustainable programming to address complex care needs equitably throughout Saskatchewan. We describe findings from stakeholder consultations that inform development of a Saskatchewan Pain Strategy.

METHODS

Interviews, focus groups, an online survey, and facilitated stakeholder meetings were conducted between June 2013 and November 2014. A white-paper document and driver diagram were disseminated among provincial stakeholders and further feedback was collected and incorporated.

RESULTS

Participants were recruited for an online survey (n=83; primary care general practitioners and nurse practitioners), interviews and focus groups (n=130; client/family advocates, multidisciplinary healthcare providers), and two facilitated large-group meetings (n=143; client/family advocates, multidisciplinary healthcare providers, representatives from non-governmental organizations, health professional associations, provincial ministry of health, and academic institutions). The following primary drivers of change were identified: knowledgeable and engaged healthcare providers, knowledgeable and engaged public, specialty services for pain assessment and management, and infrastructure to support best-practice and change at the microsystem, organizational and environmental levels. Change strategies were categorized under the following 4 pillars for future work: provincial pain foundation, pain education reform, regional pain management practice/quality improvement, and research/knowledge translation. Primary care providers identified a diagnostic consultation service and multidisciplinary treatment program as the two highest priorities for new service development, and an acute pain service transition program and mentored learning opportunities as two highest priorities for new provider supports.

CONCLUSIONS

Using broad stakeholder consultation, actionable strategies have been identified to develop a foundation of knowledge, resources and advocacy to support accessible, coordinated pain management services in Saskatchewan.

OTHER AUTHORS

Glen-mary Christopher, Karen Juckes, Krista Baerg