



## HIGHLIGHTS

**5** Regional Practice Leads in Post

**27** LTC Homes Recruited in First Cohort

**8** INFORM Workshops Held

### LTC-QI Funding Extended to 2024

The funding for the provincial Long-Term Care Quality Initiative (LTC-QI) has been extended to September 2024, in recognition of both the importance of this work and challenges the COVID-19 pandemic posed for the initiative.

With the onset of the pandemic, many LTC homes were, not surprisingly, unable to consider taking on new improvement efforts. Despite the challenges, there has been significant progress. Five Regional Practice Leads (RPLs) are in post and trained in the Improving Nursing Home Care through Feedback on Performance Data (INFORM) intervention. The RPLs have also been involved in a range of improvement initiatives in each region. Additionally, they have been developing an overall evaluation framework, and refining data collection methods and tools.

The LTC-QI Provincial Data Lead has secured access to several LTC datasets through the Health Data Platform (HDP) and is working on data sharing agreements and privacy approvals so that health authority (HA) data can be safely linked and integrated into provincial datasets.

### INFORM LTC Cohort Progress

Recruitment of a cohort of LTC homes to participate in the first LTC-QI provincial initiative (knowledge translation of TREC's INFORM research study) began early 2022.

Despite the ongoing ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, including persistent health human resources challenges, **there was much interest from the health authorities to take part in BC's implementation of INFORM.** **27** LTC homes were selected to participate. Each home attended an individual orientation meeting with their RPL in March followed by a combined 2.5-hour Goal Setting Workshop in April.

As part of the process, each LTC home chose a specific topic area to focus on. These topic areas were generated by a pan-Canadian panel of LTC experts and validated through a focus group with BC LTC managers from all health authorities:

- Care Aide Communication with Other Providers: **11 homes**
- Relationships with Residents' Families: **7 homes**
- Staff Well-Being: **8 homes**

The Long-Term Care Quality Initiative (LTC-QI) aims to embed research and translate knowledge into evidenced-based best practices in BC's Long-Term Care (LTC) sector.

The LTC-QI is a collaborative partnership between Michael Smith Health Research BC, the BC Ministry of Health, health authorities, and research and academic communities.

More info and details at: [healthresearchbc.ca/initiatives/ltcqi](https://healthresearchbc.ca/initiatives/ltcqi)

For the first Support Workshop in June, 23 LTC homes were able to participate. COVID-19 activity and the continued staffing crisis in LTC posed challenges for some of the participating homes.

Support Workshop 2 and Culmination Workshop will be completed **Winter 2022**.

## Highlights and Challenges

INFORM cohort participants said they are finding it valuable to share experiences and to have dedicated time to work on and think about their chosen improvement topic. They have expressed interest in continuing the work beyond the workshops.

Although many homes expressed excitement at the opportunity to work on something other than COVID-19, the pandemic and its associated staffing challenges still played a large factor in homes' ability to engage during the action periods between workshops. It proved easier to coordinate virtual meetings rather than on-site meetings; however, when possible, RPLs found in-person meetings to be helpful for deepening connections with the teams.

A key learning from this cohort is the need to support homes in understanding how to use measurement to inform their actions.

There is potential for the LTC-QI team to identify standardized metrics that can be used across homes and minimize the need for homes to create their own individual measurement tools.

## Next Steps

- Planning is underway to understand how learnings from Cohort One can be effectively applied to future LTC homes engaged in this type of QI work.
- RPLs will work across HAs to standardize measures aligned with the goals and interventions being implemented by LTC homes.
- Plans to sustain the work done by this cohort beyond their final workshop in 2022 include creating a 'Community of Practice.'
- Resources identified and generated from local LTC-based improvement projects will continue to be developed and shared as a component part of the work of the RPLs.
- Over the next two years, the LTC-QI will fine-tune the same multi-pronged approach, focusing on strategies that were effective in supporting local improvements, coordinating provincial implementation projects, and building and using the provincial data infrastructure.
- Reflecting on the last two years, the RPLs will work to identify key strategic initiatives that align to priorities of all health authorities and to capitalize on the synergies stemming from the provincial network.

## Coming in the January Update:

- Early results from BC INFORM work
- Introductions to regional QI initiatives
- Progress on the LTC-QI Provincial Data Initiative
- A refresh on strategic planning for the Initiative