



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Latest data on cardiac procedure outcomes now available, quality of cardiac care in other areas remains unknown with no progress in sight

OTTAWA, June 3, 2019 – New insights on Canada’s cardiovascular health system performance nationally, provincially, and locally are now available from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS).

The data, developed in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), shows patient outcomes following percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), a cardiac procedure used to improve blood flow to the heart, and cardiac surgery between 2015 and 2018. This update indicates that:

- Average mortality and readmission rates in Canada are comparable with rates in other countries;
- Mortality and readmission rates in Canada have remained stable over three years; and
- No centres are performing significantly above or below the national average on all quality indicators however, variability in the results suggests there may be opportunities for quality improvement

“Insights gleaned from this data update are critically important for my centre – and centre’s across the country – to assess our quality of care and ensure our improvement efforts have evidence behind them” said Dr. Ansar Hassan, cardiovascular surgeon at the New Brunswick Heart Centre and Vice-Chair of the CCS cardiac surgery quality working group. “I work in a province with just one cardiac care centre. Without this initiative, barriers to inter-provincial data-sharing would stop me from knowing how the care my patients receive compares to the care patients receive at other centres.”

A highly engaged network of heart health specialists led the development of this national quality reporting system that has proven to be effective through the annual CCQI data update.

This data keeps care providers and patients informed on quality of care for PCI and cardiac surgery, stimulates national discussion, and facilitates sharing of best practices across Canada. Yet this is just one piece of the broader national cardiac reporting system that the CCS has looked to the federal government to fund in order for progress to continue across cardiovascular conditions (not just PCI and cardiac surgery).

For the third consecutive year, this reporting system, better known as the CCS Quality Project, was not funded in Budget 2019. Without it, the CCS does not have the resources that are required to scale and spread this important work, and the gains made to date in other areas, particularly chronic cardiovascular conditions, will be lost.

“Without sustainable resources behind this initiative, we’re missing the opportunity to improve the quality of care patients receive, and potentially the efficiency and effectiveness of the health care system,” says Carolyn Pullen, CEO of CCS. “Providers, particularly those caring for patients with chronic disease, have limited information to support quality improvement efforts. Within this context, we can expect regional disparities in quality of care to persist.”

About the Canadian Cardiovascular Society

The Canadian Cardiovascular Society is a non-profit organization that represents more than 2,200 cardiovascular clinicians and scientists across Canada. Established in 1947, the Canadian Cardiovascular Society works to promote cardiovascular health and care excellence through knowledge translation, professional development and health policy.

About the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Quality Project

The Canadian Cardiovascular Society Quality Project looks to aggregate, analyze, and report on quality of cardiovascular care across Canada. The ongoing measurement and release of nationally comparable data mobilizes centers across Canada to track achievements and identify opportunities for evidence-based improvements that result in better care, better value, and better patient outcomes.

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