

CCS Heart Failure Research Survey Project

The Canadian Cardiovascular Society CCS established in 2006 a sustainable guideline development process, beginning with heart failure, that includes the adoption of a 'closed-loop' performance model that enables ongoing performance measurement and quality improvement of all processes associated with guideline development including: end-user needs assessment; development of recommendations tailored for the health care system; dissemination and implementation; evaluation; analysis and planning for the next yearly cycle. The extent of implementation and awareness of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society guidelines for the diagnosis and management of heart failure among Canadian clinicians has yet to be investigated and provides the rationale for this research project we call '**The Canadian Cardiovascular Society Research Project: Canadian Knowledge Survey for Heart Failure (CanKNOW-HF)**'.

The purpose of this study is two-fold:

1. Evaluate both awareness and knowledge of the content of the CCS guidelines for the diagnosis and management of heart failure among Canadian physicians in five groups: practicing family physicians, practicing general internists, general cardiologists, residents in internal medicine programs, and residents in family medicine programs.
2. Compare awareness and knowledge of the guidelines between residents and clinicians who have completed their medical training, among different specialties.

A validated questionnaire to evaluate the awareness and knowledge of the content of the CCS guidelines was developed with input from family and internal medicine residency program directors, and pilot tested at two medical schools. The survey can be completed in fewer than 30 minutes by accessing weblink:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GT9JJ6Q>

The survey does not collect any identifiable information, thereby allowing your responses to remain completely anonymous throughout our entire study.

Participation is voluntary; you can decline to answer questions if you wish and can withdraw from participation by not completing the survey. The completed questionnaires will be kept for 5 years in a secure location and then confidentially destroyed. Electronic data will be kept on a secure server and destroyed after 5 years

Once all data has been collected and analyzed, we plan on sharing this information with the Canadian Cardiovascular Society's Knowledge Transfer Department, and the research community through seminars, conferences, presentations and journal articles. The results from this work will inform the development and refinement of heart failure educational initiatives for residency training as well as for established physicians.

The completion and submission of a questionnaire will be taken as consent to participate in the study.

Your decision to participate or not will not affect you or your current educational/professional standing in any way. Your responses are highly valuable to us and we strongly urge you to please participate.

A steering committee is providing guidance and oversight for this project as a whole and its composition is reflective of a multi-disciplinary representation of Canadian heart failure experts including: Robert McKelvie, cardiologist at McMaster University (Hamilton, ON), Gordon Moe, cardiologist at St. Michael's hospital (Toronto, ON), Jonathan Howlett cardiologist at Foothills Medical Centre (Calgary, AB), Justin Ezekowitz, cardiologist at University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB), and George Heckman, geriatrician at University of Waterloo (Waterloo, ON).

As with all University of Waterloo projects involving human participants, this project was reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the Office of Research Ethics at the University of Waterloo. Should you have any comments or concerns resulting from your participation in this study, please contact the Office of research Ethics at 519-888-4567, Ext. 36005 or martin@ccs.ca.

Sincerely,

Jason Akerman, BHSc

Medical Student,
Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador

George A. Heckman, MD MSc FRCPC

Associate Professor
University of Waterloo

Robert McKelvie, MD PhD FRCPC

Professor , Division of cardiology, Department of medicine
McMaster University