



# QBP Pathway Improvement Program Overview & Rationale for Change

## What are we doing?

We are launching QBP Pathway Improvement Packages for the first 5 of many diagnoses.

### Wave 1 Diagnoses

- 1) COPD
- 2) Pneumonia (CAP)
- 3) CHF
- 4) Ischemic Stroke
- 5) Hip Fracture

### Pathway Packages

- 1) Order Sets:** Best practices are incorporated into care
- 2) Clinical Pathways:** Nurses and other members of the care team have a guide to care specific to patient's diagnosis
- 3) Patient Experience Pathways:** Patients and their family are educated around the expectations of their hospital stay and resources are provided about their condition

## Why are we doing this?

Quality Based Procedures (QBPs) are groups of patients with specific diagnoses that offer opportunities for health care providers to share best practices and improved patient quality of care. Research and best practice have driven the decision to use these 3 methods to improve and standardize care.

Standardizing and aligning clinical practices is a key aspect of providing high quality and efficient care. Order Sets and Clinical Pathways have positive effects on patient outcomes and reduction in hospital costs:

- Reduction in post-admission symptoms and readmission rates<sup>1</sup>
- Improved early mobilization and reduced mortality<sup>2</sup>
- Reduction in acute length of stay by actively monitoring and reacting to discharge criteria<sup>3</sup>

Patients have told us how difficult it is to be in the hospital and how scared they are to ask questions. Patients have also said that they may have been clinically ready for discharge, but did not feel mentally or emotionally prepared. Patients who receive in-hospital information are much more likely to follow physician instructions and make lifestyle changes.<sup>4</sup> This can reduce nonadherence in follow-up care, unnecessary return visits to the ED, and poor health outcomes.<sup>5</sup>

## How did we involve front-line staff?

The QBP Improvement Working Groups were made up of various disciplines, including physicians, nursing, allied health and Unit Managers and Clinical Pathway Managers. Over 275 front line staff were consulted and feedback incorporated.

## How can I get more information?

- There is an Implementation Binder on your unit with additional information and resources
- You can access the training material and other documents on the internet at [www.WRHow.ca](http://www.WRHow.ca) and select "QBP Pathway Improvement Program" on the left
- Talk to your Unit Manager or Clinical Practice Manager if you have more questions; they can provide feedback back to the teams

<sup>1</sup> Improving Care for Chronic Heart Failure Patients, NHS Whales (2010)

<sup>2</sup> Hip fracture quality improvement programme, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (2015)

<sup>3</sup> Implementation of a clinical pathway decreases length of stay and cost for bowel resection, Pritts et al (1999)

<sup>4</sup> How to Develop and Use Effective Patient/Consumer Education (Elsevier)

<sup>5</sup> From Theory to Pamphlet: The 3Ws and an H Process for the Development of Meaningful Patient Education Resources (Papadakos)

