

FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE: Implementing a frailty measure for older adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

A report on the reactions of webinar participants

WEBINAR

On February 24, 2016, MAPS researchers **Hélène Ouellette-Kuntz**, **Lynn Martin**, and **Katherine McKenzie** partnered with the Ontario Partnership on Aging & Developmental Disabilities (OPADD) to present their research on frailty among adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the development and validation of a frailty index, and the opportunities to implement this measure in Ontario's home care system.

WHAT DID WE DO?

We presented results from our research, and asked our webinar participants polls and discussion questions to determine their understanding and hear their opinions on our findings.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

Over 150 individuals watched and listened to our webinar session. Over 80% were from Ontario. Most of individuals who registered told us they knew some or a lot about the topics presented (55%). Most participants were from the health care sector (65%) and/or the developmental services sector (35%). Many identified as managers (25%) and/or direct service providers (35%), while the rest were policy makers/analysts, researchers/students, or unidentified.

POLL RESULTS

After controlling for other factors, was the risk of frailty was lower in the IDD group, not different in the IDD group, or higher in the IDD group?



Most of the group (80%) correctly noted that frailty was higher in the group with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while 8% thought it was lower.

“A combination approach provides a more holistic view of the individual and is more adaptive to an individualized approach to resolving issues and challenges.” - Participant

Which frailty measurement approach is more appropriate in aging adults with IDD?

When given the option of choosing the frailty phenotype, the accumulation of deficits approach, or a combination of the two approaches, most (95%) selected a combined approach.



Queen's
UNIVERSITY



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



MAPS
MULTIDIMENSIONAL ASSESSMENT
OF PROVIDERS AND SYSTEMS



Does the DS sector need to know about frailty status to support people in the community?

Most of the participants (83%) believed that the developmental services sector should know about the frailty status of all of the individuals it supports, while some (13%) indicated that the sector only needs to know about the frailty status of the older individuals they support.

DISCUSSION RESULTS

How could this information be used at the individual level?

Participants had suggestions for uses of a measure at the individual level, including the implementation of pre-screenings around the ages of 40-50 years. Others suggested annual screenings to be provided by physicians or developmental services workers. With consideration of privacy and consent, some proposed the development of individual “frailty profiles” that could be accessed by individuals, families, and care providers.

How could this information be used at the population level?

At the population level, participants perceived a use of frailty information to inform policy, determine funding, and to forecast future trends. Some noted the use of this information for advocacy and education purposes. Many mentioned the importance for system-wide and integrated planning.

How to cite:

McKenzie, K., Martin, L., & Ouellette-Kuntz, H. (2016). *From research to practice- Implementing a frailty measure for older adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A report on the reactions of webinar participants*. Kingston, Ontario: Multidimensional Assessment of Providers and Systems. Available at <http://mapsresearch.ca/resources/other-knowledge-exchange-tools/>



WATCH THE WEBINAR @ mapsresearch.ca/resources/videos/



**Canadian
Frailty
Network**

**Réseau canadien
des soins aux
personnes fragilisées**

This research is funded by Canadian Frailty Network (known previously as Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network, TVN), which is supported by the Government of Canada through the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) Program.



Reena
Ready to live, work and play
in the community.