Dear colleague,

The Quality Management Partnership (the Partnership) is pleased to share this communication to update you on the progress of the Pathology Quality Management Program (QMP) and to highlight important upcoming activities.

**PATHOLOGY QMP LEADERSHIP**

Over the past year, the Pathology QMP has successfully recruited 12 of the 16 regional leads required.

Regions with vacancies include:

- LHIN 5/6, Central West/Mississauga Halton
- LHIN 12 North Simcoe Muskoka
- LHIN 13 North East
- LHIN 14 North West

We will provide an update on future recruitment plans at a later date.

**Provincial Quality Committee meetings**

The Pathology Provincial Quality Committee held its inaugural meeting on October 28, 2016. Michael Sherar, President and CEO, CCO, provided an overview of the Pathology QMP progress to date and of current priorities. He discussed the role of the committee and highlighted the importance of participating in this initiative, its long-term goals and some of the underlying principles of the Partnership.

Other topics discussed at this meeting include:

- updates on:
  - the mandate and membership of the Citizens’ Advisory Committee
  - the development of the standards and the indicators working groups
  - the Partnership’s data governance model
  - a gap analysis comparing the Pathology QMP recommendations with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and the College of American Pathologist guidelines
  - strategies to support adoption and implementation of the prioritized standards
  - future resources to support learning and quality improvement

- an overview of:
  - the prioritized standards and the selection process
  - the purpose and focus of the 2016 Pathology QMP reports
  - feasibility assessment work that has been conducted focusing on the data we can currently collect based on seven pathology indicators proposed for future Pathology QMP reports
At the February 27, 2017 meeting, the topics discussed included updates on:

- regional lead activities
- evaluation of the 2016 Pathology QMP report
- the 2017 Pathology QMP Facility Survey and planning for the 2017 Pathology QMP report
- the Partnership’s public reporting goals and current activities
- strategies to support paediatric pathology
- a report from the Indicator Working Group

For more information on the PQC meeting discussions, please contact your regional lead.

PATHOLOGY QMP REPORTS

Last fall, the Partnership released its first set of Pathology QMP reports. These reports provide an overview of quality at the facility, regional and provincial levels measured by a number of prioritized standards, and are intended to help foster conversations about quality improvement in pathology facilities across Ontario. The 2016 Pathology QMP reports were based on responses to a survey sent to all facilities providing surgical pathology in Ontario in the spring of 2016.

Since then, the Partnership has supported facilities in implementing the prioritized standards with an implementation guide, teleconferences on report methodology, and FAQs. Regional leads have also hosted QMP-focused events for facilities in their regions. In addition, the provincial leads of the three QMPs (colonoscopy, mammography and pathology) have participated in a number of regional and professional events together, with the goal of examining opportunities for collaboration. The Pathology and the Colonoscopy QMPs are also working together to develop recommendations on information to be included on communication documents for polypectomies.

This fall, the Pathology QMP will be issuing the 2017 Pathology QMP reports. In June, facility leads will receive another survey to complete. This year’s survey will measure progress against the implementation of the prioritized standards over the past year.

Before the reports are released, the Pathology QMP will host a fall webcast, which will help participants understand the purpose and content of QMP reports and how to read and interpret them. It will also highlight upcoming learning opportunities.

A supplementary information package with updated FAQs and a link to the methodology will accompany the 2017 reports.

In addition to the webcast, following the report distribution, you will receive an invitation to attend an optional teleconference. The teleconference will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the reports and ask any questions you may have.

THE PARTNERSHIP’S PUBLIC REPORTING STRATEGY

A key goal for the Partnership is to improve public confidence by increasing accountability and transparency. To deliver on this goal, the Partnership is committed to public reporting in the future and is working with members of the public and system leaders, including the Citizens’ Advisory Committee and the Pathology Provincial Quality Committee, to develop a plan for public reporting. Further details and timelines will be communicated as they become available.
RESOURCES

We are working on developing a resource hub, which will host documents such as templates, policies, procedures and other useful materials, and will let you know when it is available.

The Partnership is also developing other learning and quality improvement resources, and will share more details on these plans over the next few months.

Questions? Contact Dr. Kathy Chorneyko at katherine.chorneyko@bchsys.org or the Partnership at info@qmpontario.ca.