Developing a Program Evaluation Plan of Medical Rehabilitation Services in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut, Canada; Learning from 15 years of Community

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The University of Manitoba Northern Medical Unit (NMU) has provided medical rehabilitation services to the Kivalliq region of Nunavut, funded by the Government of Nunavut, since 2000. The Kivalliq region has a population of 10,467, the majority of whom self-identify as Inuit. The program was developed based on the findings of a community needs assessment. The program provides PT, OT, and SLP services that are based in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. The therapists also provide clinical services to the six widely distributed remote hamlets. Services to Sanikiluaq are provided from therapists based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. A Community Therapy Assistant (CTA) program was also developed, guided by a feasibility study carried out in 2002, to train local community members to act as rehabilitation assistants in the hamlets across Nunavut. The poster will discuss the elements of the mixed methods program evaluation that will be conducted. The goals are to evaluate access and quality of care in Rankin Inlet, as well as the hamlets in the region; determine if the current PT, OT, SLP and CTA staffing complement is meeting regional needs; and evaluate cost effectiveness of services. A literature review will be conducted on remote medical rehabilitation services and evaluation of such programs. Partnerships with stakeholders will be identified in the evaluation process and include territorial health authorities as appropriate, health professionals, and local health committees. Quantitative data will include statistical program data as well as survey results from consumers of PT, OT and SLP services. Qualitative data will include discussions with local community members as well as consumers of PT, OT, and SLP services. An evaluation plan is an important step to conducting effective program evaluations. The results will be used to gauge program effectiveness, address lessons learned regarding administration of the program, and make recommendations on staffing complements and funding.

References

Developing an Effective Evaluation Plan. Atlanta, Georgia: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health; Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, 2011.
