

## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **Consensus Guidelines on Safety and Quality Indicators in Endoscopy**

#### **Role of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology and next steps**

The development of the *Consensus Guidelines on Safety and Quality Indicators in Endoscopy* was led by the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology with the participation of a group of 35 Canadian, European and U.S.-based experts in endoscopy, gastroenterology, surgery, nursing, legal and ethical issues, patient perspectives and quality improvement in health care. CAG members were among this expert group.

The *Consensus Guidelines* are the result of a number of evolving trends and changes the CAG has recognized over the past decade. Demand for endoscopic procedures such as screenings for colon cancer is on the rise – exceeding the capacity to deliver them. There are more than 1.6 million endoscopic tests performed in Canada every year.

In addition, with no national guidelines in place, the CAG has developed a number of programs over the past decade to promote greater safety and quality in endoscopic services to Canadians. Among these programs is our Quality Program – Endoscopy (QP-E) and the adoption of the Global Rating Scale (GRS) – a program that evaluates multiple components of endoscopy service from a patient-focused perspective. The GRS is a main element of the CAG’s QP-E program.

The *Consensus Guidelines* are a natural extension of the CAG’s programs. Three years in the making, they were developed in partnership with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). In June 2010, the CAG convened a multidisciplinary conference. Having reviewed research published since 1990, the 35 participants voted to refine statements related to facility and staffing, pre-procedural assessment and consent, intra-procedural policies, patient feedback, training, monitoring and quality assurance, and credentials and privileging.

From the conference, 23 evidence-based recommendations were developed to address quality and safety indicators, quality assurance, training and credentialing and ethics in endoscopy. These recommendations were published in *Consensus Guidelines on Safety and Quality Indicators in Endoscopy* in January 2012.

The new national *Consensus Guidelines* will provide those who deliver service with new ways to measure and benchmark practices. The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology will work with its members, its partner the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, provincial gastroenterology associations and other stakeholders to promote broad implementation of the Consensus Guidelines across Canada.

Endoscopy services in Canada are safe. However, the CAG believes there is always room for improvement in service delivery. The CAG’s number one priority is to promote patient safety and high quality medical services to Canadians in the field of gastroenterology.

#### **For more information:**

Visit the [CAG web site](#)

[Download the Consensus Guidelines short summary](#)