

## Knowledge User AHRQ Request Form

Please complete this form and submit to a research institution to initiate the AHRQ process. A list of contact information and area of expertise for ministry-funded research institutions is appended to the AHRQ guidelines. Before filling out the AHRQ Request Form, Knowledge Users should ensure that they do not have the internal capacity, knowledge and/or resources to carry out the research themselves.

\*Please note that research under AHRQ is intended to support policy development and planning to improve the Ontario health system. Requests to support specific advocacy positions are neither in scope, nor appropriate for the AHRQ process.

**The information supplied in this request form is not confidential and may be shared at the discretion of the ministry.**

Knowledge User Organization	The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre
Primary Contact Name	Danielle Sinden
Title and Department	Manager, Centre of Excellence and Research Operations
Address	1750 Russell Road, Ottawa ON K1G 5Z6
Phone	613-526-7170 ext 2424
Email	<a href="mailto:dsinden@prvhc.com">dsinden@prvhc.com</a>
Date research is needed	October 30, 2019

The ARHQ is submitted to	Peter Tanuseputro, AHRQ contact for HSRF Award to the Ontario QUILT (QUalityfor Individuals who require Long-Term support) Network: Informing Health System Reform for Long-Term and Community Care.
Research Provider Organization	Ontario QUILT (QUality for Individuals who require Long-Term support) Network: Informing Health System Reform for Long-Term and Community Care
ICES Scientist (if known)	Amy Hsu and Peter Tanuseputro
Date of submission to ICES	March 22, 2018

1. A) What type of research evidence response are you seeking?

- Rapid response  
 Research report or technical brief  
 Research project

B) Insert AHRQ question below:

Is the SAFE Unit an effective and sustainable model that helps frail seniors avoid hospitalization and avoid/delay admission to long-term care?

C) If you know which data you will require, please list them here (refer to this link for more information on the [ICES Data Holdings](#))

- Registered Persons Database files (RPDB)
- Home Care Database(HCD)
- Resident Assessment Instrument–Home Care (RAI-HC)
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) claims database
- Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)
- National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)
- National Rehabilitation Reporting System (NRS)
- Client Profile Database (CPRO)
- Continuing Care Reporting System (CCRS)

2. Please indicate the primary focus of the proposed AHRQ (**choose 1**)

- Community-based Care
- Health System Performance and Sustainability
- Healthy Living, with a focus on tobacco control
- Innovation with a focus on drugs
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Nursing Research
- Primary Care Reform
- Problem Gambling
- Quality Improvement and Safety
- Seniors' Care
- Vulnerable and Special Health Needs Populations
- Women's Health

3. Additional Priorities addressed (**select all the apply**)

- Community-based Care
- Health System Performance and Sustainability
- Healthy Living, with a focus on tobacco control
- Innovation with a focus on drugs
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Nursing Research
- Primary Care Reform
- Problem Gambling
- Quality Improvement and Safety
- Seniors' Care
- Vulnerable and Special Health Needs Populations
- Women's Health

4. Provide a brief summary of the background and the purpose of the actual question being proposed. Why is this AHRQ being proposed? (e.g., development of guidelines on improving prevention and care delivery of a specific chronic disease.)

The Sub-Acute Unit for Frail Elderly (SAFE Unit) based at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre was implemented in order to address the capacity issue that exists in hospitals due in part to elderly patients occupying a high proportion of acute care beds. Many of these patients could be safely cared for in other settings. Under SAFE, these patients transfer from an acute-care hospital to a special 20-bed unit at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, where they access the medical and rehabilitative supports needed to recover fully and return to their place of residence.

The Centre of Excellence and Research Operations at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre is interested in evaluating the effectiveness, as well as the cost effectiveness of the SAFE Unit in improving patient care and outcomes. Key outcomes of interest include: ED visits; hospital readmissions; visits to a family doctor; receipt of home care support; and long-term care admission. A cost-analysis will help determine the feasibility of the model and help inform future planning for scaling up and spreading the program.

Using ICES data, we will be able to examine the patients' outcomes, health service utilization and the associated costs of care following discharge from an acute care hospital. This will inform the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of the program.

5. What is the current status of knowledge by the Knowledge User group? (e.g., there is some anecdotal evidence that the existing delivery of services do not adequately capture high-risk groups.)

Evidence shows that an acute care setting is not appropriate for frail seniors to recover from acute illness and puts them at risk of worsening frailty status. The SAFE Unit at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre aims to reduce acute care length of stay for frail elderly by providing them care that is more appropriate and cost-effective. By providing specialized short-term care to medically complex frail elderly, it is expected that they will be able to return home with appropriate supports. In turn, they may be able to avoid unnecessary ED visits and hospital admission as well as delay in long-term care admission in the future.

6. How will the eventual research evidence be used and what purpose will the proposed research serve? (e.g., the research evidence will be reviewed by senior management and service delivery partners and considered in the development of a defined preferred model of care and best practice relating to a health care issue.)

The evaluation will determine whether a transitional care model like the SAFE Unit is an effective and sustainable solution to caring for frail elderly persons following their discharge from an acute care hospital. Evidence from this research will help inform future programming for the SAFE Unit at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre and decisions by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in allocating resources to provide the types of support needed by seniors with complex needs.

7. Please name at least two other organizations or program areas that can benefit from this research.


Acute care hospitals who are partners of the SAFE Unit: The Ottawa Hospital; Queensway Carleton Hospital; Montfort Hospital

LHIN/Ontario Health/Other levels of government

Home and Community Care agencies

Other long-term care homes

8. Please have a senior decision maker (e.g., Assistant Deputy Minister, Executive Director) from your organization sign below to confirm that they approve this research question.

Senior Decision Maker Name & Title	Signature	Date
Mary Boutette Chief operating officer		March 22, 2019

9. To be completed by Research Provider:

This request is:  Accepted

Declined

*Reason:*

Referred to another organization:

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