



BEST PRACTICES IN VIRTUAL CARE:

COACH and OTN to develop ground breaking White Paper

COACH: Canada's Health Informatics Association and the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) are joining forces with the digital health community to develop a white paper on best practices in virtual care.

A working group comprising members of COACH's new Virtual Care Community of Interest (COI) will look at virtual care across Canada, identifying leading examples and associated best practices.

"COACH is extremely proud to partner with OTN on developing this ground-breaking white paper," says COACH CEO Mark Casselman. "OTN's outstanding leadership and rich, multi-faceted experience in the telehealth field will be a tremendous asset. COACH members look forward to teaming up with OTN to produce this much-needed best practice resource and help maximize the benefits of virtual care, both for patients and the health care system."

The research underlying the white paper will engage both the public and private sectors, focusing on leading agencies and organizational participants interested in contributing their experiences and expertise.

The document will explore strategic planning, policy, funding, workflow, human resources requirements, performance evaluation and measurement metrics.

"It will take a coalition – providers, patients, organizations – working together to ensure that Canada has the right health care programs and policies in place to implement effective virtual care," says Dr. Ed Brown, CEO of OTN.

"It goes without saying that virtual care is an essential enabler to create the sustainable, equitable health care system we all want. The COACH Community of Interest and our white paper partnership are important steps forward in achieving that goal."

COACH's COI provides members with a dedicated meeting space to discuss and deliberate jurisdictional, regional and local approaches and experiences related to virtual care as well as obtain relevant updates on the development of the virtual care white paper. COACH members can [join the COI](#) and watch for further updates as the white paper progresses!

About COACH

COACH: Canada's Health Informatics Association is *the voice of health informatics (HI) in Canada* promoting the adoption, practice and professionalism of HI. COACH represents a diverse community of accomplished, influential professionals who work passionately to make a difference in advancing healthcare through information technology. HI is the intersection of clinical, IM/IT and management practices. Members are dedicated to realizing their full potential as professionals and advancing HI through access to information, talent, credentials, recognition, programs and a broad range of services and specialized resources. www.coachorg.com

About OTN

The world leader in telemedicine, OTN helps Ontarians get more out of the health care system by bridging the distance of time and geography to bring more patients the care they need, where and when they need it. Using innovative technology, OTN streamlines the healthcare process, while also expanding the way knowledge is shared and how the medical community interacts with each other and with patients. An independent, not-for-profit organization, OTN is funded by the Government of Ontario and Canada Health Infoway. For more information please visit www.otn.ca and www.otnresults.ca.

Media Contact Information

Sharon Airhart
Senior Communications Advisor
Ontario Telemedicine Network
sairhart@otn.ca
416-312-3779

RoseMary MacVicar-Elliott
Manager, Communications
COACH
rmacvicar-elliott@coachorg.com
416-494-1440, ext 224