AN INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY-BASED APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING THE 2014 ATRIAL FIBRILLATION GUIDELINES IN PRACTICE

Clinical practice guidelines are a valuable tool for disseminating new evidence, however physician adherence to guideline recommendations is limited by many barriers, including lack of awareness and familiarity. In association with the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS), Guideline Connect was developed to address the knowledge gap created by these barriers, using an innovative online platform called Vivomap to elicit point-of-care (POC) knowledge transfer (KT) of the 2014 CCS Guidelines for the Management of Atrial Fibrillation.

During a regular care visit, 256 family physicians (FPs) and 85 cardiologists assessed their management choices for 4,002 patients at POC using Vivomap on their smartphone, computer, or tablet. Adherence was facilitated by prompts triggered at treatment decision points that were not congruent with the guidelines.

Guideline Connect modified the behavior of physicians who were not initially compliant with the guidelines by increasing appropriate use of oral anti-coagulants by 57%, while reducing warfarin usage by 41% (the recommend against warfarin).

This program should win the Skuy award for Best Medical Execution of a New or Existing Product as it has proven an innovative and effective solution to the longstanding problem in clinical practice of disseminating and ensuring the update of clinical practice guidelines to achieve better patient outcomes.

To demo the program, please:
Go to: www.vivomap.ca
Username: skuy
Password: skuy
Select the steps called “Patient Survey” and enter a fictitious patient to see how knowledge transfer at point-of-care was achieved.