



Developing a Mesothelioma Health Network

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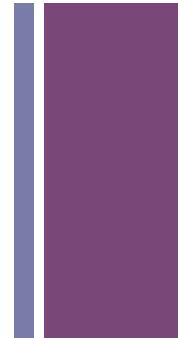


Background leading to decision to develop a Mesothelioma Health Network

- Discussions for the need for a network began 1 ½ years ago
- Recognition of lack of awareness among many health care providers about mesothelioma screening and treatment options
- This has resulted at times in limiting the treatment options for some mesothelioma patients in Canada
- Need for Canada-wide network of physicians with expertise in mesothelioma and for sharing of information with frontline health care providers



Mesothelioma Health Network:



A guiding principle would include:

- Need to work closely and collaborate with existing provincial and national cancer centres and agencies:
 - No need to duplicate services or resources
 - Tap into expertise that is already existing, but improve access to information and expertise specifically for mesothelioma
 - Provide a distinct venue for communication amongst experts in mesothelioma to come together and share information



Mesothelioma Health Network:

- Ultimately, this network would serve to improve access to care, ease of referral and sharing of evidence-based treatment options that would be most appropriate for the individual patient, taking into account each patient's specific circumstances





Mesothelioma Health Network

- Content of information for the network would be led by a scientific advisory committee
 - Could potentially include posting of advances in screening, clinical trials, latest research findings, progress with new treatment approaches, developing care pathways or using existing care pathways if appropriate, etc.....
- Would serve as a venue for raising awareness amongst frontline health care workers and provide educational resources for them (resources for continuing medical education)
- Would also serve as the basis for educational materials for patients and families



Mesothelioma Health Network:

- Funding would be required to both develop this network and keep it up to date and sustainable
 - Private donations
 - Grants from trade unions and other possible stakeholders
 - Government grants
 - Grants from other organizations such as the Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Lung Association, Canadian Partnership against Cancer, etc...



Governance model for this network:

- Led by a scientific advisory committee, who would be responsible for its development and content
- Discussion needed on options for overall governance and how it fits in with existing networks and institutions