

# Evidence in Context

Health research —  
synthesized & contextualized for  
use in Newfoundland & Labrador.

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### Age-Friendly Acute Care in Newfoundland & Labrador

Belinda Parks, Stephen Bornstein, Robert Kean, Megan MacKinnon, Karen McGrath

Issue: November/December 2012

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### Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Difficult Wound Healing in Newfoundland & Labrador

Public Health, Stephen Bornstein

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### Options for the Development of a PET/CT Program in NL

Editor: Robert NLCAMH's  
Content/Health Research  
Program

The Newfoundland and Labrador  
Health Research Program is a research  
program that provides evidence-based  
information to support decision-making  
in health care. The program is  
committed to providing high-quality  
evidence-based information to support  
decision-making in health care.

CHRP provides the findings of  
health research to support  
decision-making in health  
care. The program is committed  
to providing high-quality evidence-based  
information to support decision-making  
in health care.

APPLIED  
HEALTH  
RESEARCH

# CHRSRP:

Engaging with health system  
partners to support evidence-  
informed decision making

*An Innovative Newfoundland and Labrador Approach*

Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research  
[www.nlcahr.mun.ca/chrsp](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/chrsp)

# Presenters



- Stephen Bornstein, Director, Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research
- Susan Gillam, Chief Executive Officer, Western Health

# Key challenge for health research units:



***“How can we get scientific evidence used more frequently and more effectively by the healthcare system?”***

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# Key challenge for health system leaders:



***“How can we locate and use the best scientific evidence as one input among many into decision making?”***



# One Approach:

## Evidence *in* Context

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**Collaborating**  
with provincial decision makers

**Identifying**  
priority research questions

**Gathering**  
relevant research

**Synthesizing**  
the best available evidence

**Interpreting**  
for a Newfoundland and Labrador context

**Supporting**  
evidence-informed decisions

**Answering**  
important questions about health

**Communicating**  
the results of our work

Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program

# CHRSP

Health research - synthesized and contextualized for use in Newfoundland and Labrador

[www.nlcahr.mun.ca/chrsp](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/chrsp)

# Who is involved?

Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for

**APPLIED  
HEALTH  
RESEARCH**

[www.nlcahr.mun.ca](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca)

Our mission:

*to contribute to the effectiveness of the health system of Newfoundland and Labrador and to the physical, social, and psychological health and well-being of the population by supporting the development and use of **applied** health research*



# Who is involved?



Department of Health and Community Services



# Represented today by



## Western Health





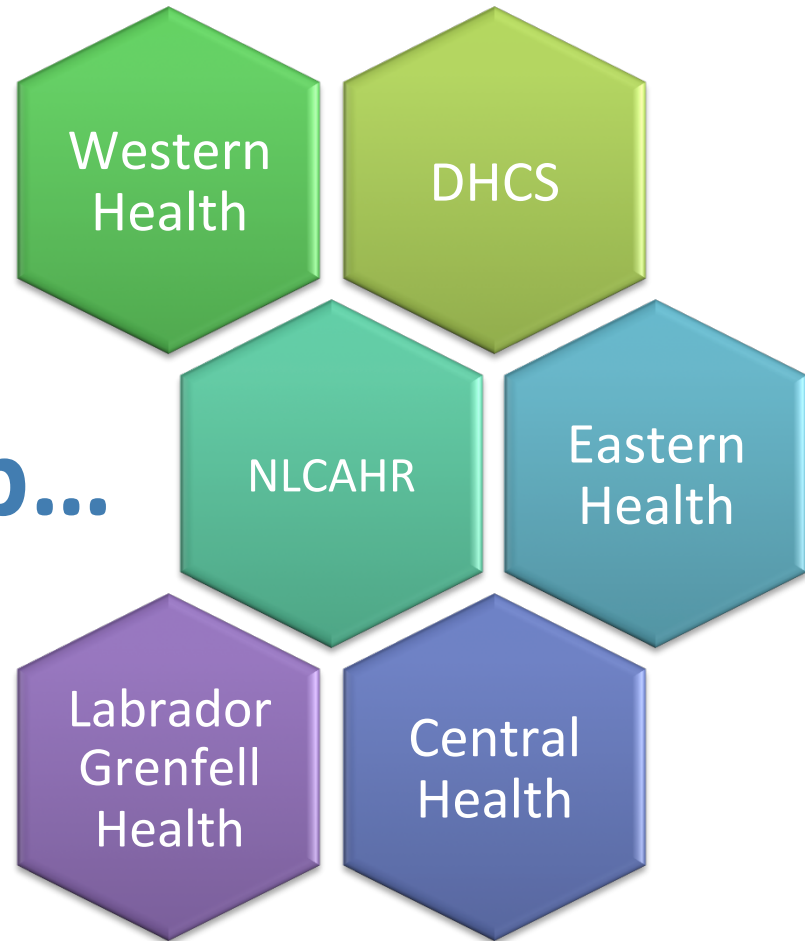
# Our approach:

- focus on specific issues rather than broad themes
- have the system leaders identify issues of importance
- use NLCAHR's expertise to formulate each issue as a researchable question
- do research synthesis rather than primary research
- focus on review literature rather than individual studies
- shape the questions and the syntheses to the local context (challenges, capacities)
- report on the results quickly and in usable formats

# How does CHRSP Work?



**In partnership...**



# 7 Steps in the Program

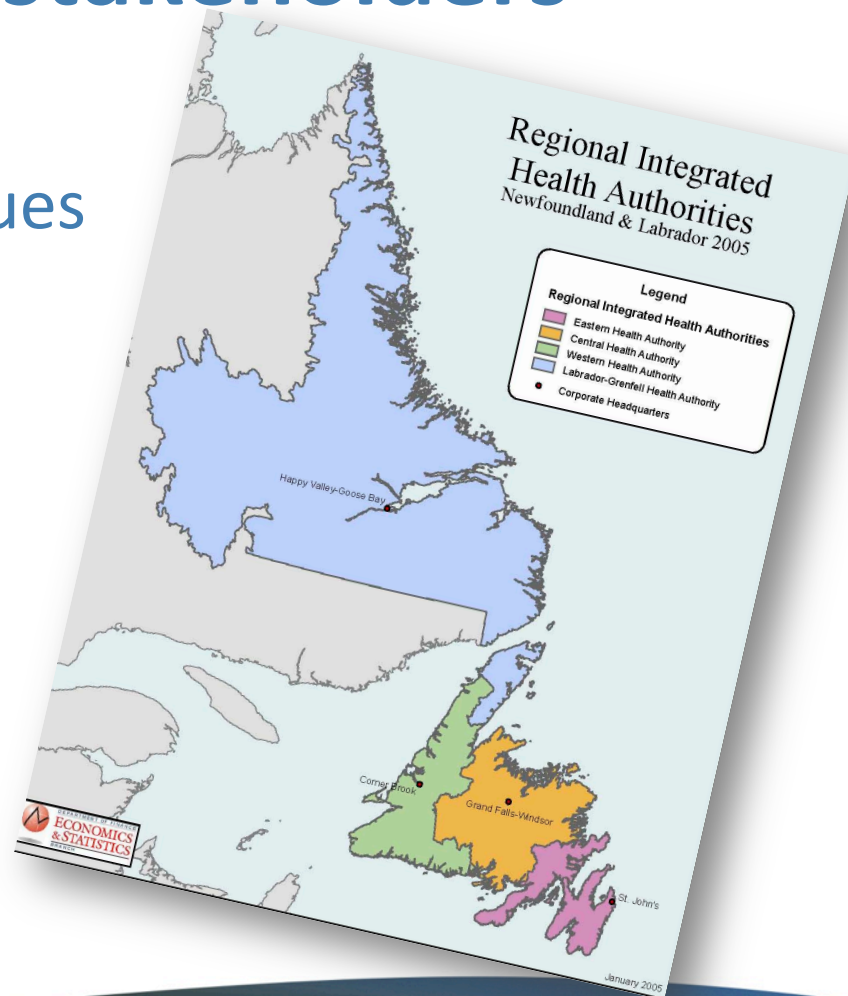




# STEP 1:

## CHRSP works with stakeholders

- To identify important issues
- **CHRSP Champions** play advocacy role
- Filtering Criteria



# *Who are CHRSP Champions?*

- Decision makers in the RHAs, DHCS who assist Health System Leaders (HSLs) in CHRSP process
- For example, in Western Health
  - VP Quality and Research
  - Director of Planning and Research

# ***CHRSP Filtering Criteria***

- Importance
  - Population affected, potential to improve health outcomes, cost implications, multiple stakeholders view topic as important
- Timeline
  - Semi-urgent: Need to know – but not today!
- Feasibility
  - Is it a researchable question? Can it be reformulated?
- Availability of evidence
  - Is there sufficient high-level research evidence
- Availability of a team
  - Team leader, local systems experts, context team

# ***The Topic Development Process in Western Health***

- Consultation process including leadership team to identify pressing research needs.
- Champion provides support to leaders in identifying what makes a good question.
- Senior leadership prioritize the topics for consideration



# STEP 2:

## Set Priorities

- CHRSP Team meets with HSLs
- Priority-setting process
- End result:
  - High-priority topics are studied as '*Evidence in Context Report*' or as '*Rapid Evidence Report*'



# STEP 3:

## Build a Project Team

Members
Team Leader
CHRSPP Program Coordinator
CHRSPP Project Coordinator
Health System Co-investigator(s)
Local Academic Co-investigator(s)
Other Context Advisors
Expert(s) in research synthesis, HTAs, and systematic reviews
Health Economist
CHRSPP Research Assistant



# STEP 4:

## Locate, assess, synthesize evidence

- a. Devise, execute a search strategy
- b. Critically appraise & summarize the evidence
  - Quantity: Does it exist?  
*Is it up to date? Is it on topic?*  
*Is it accessible?*
  - Quality: How good is it?  
***What is the methodological quality of the review literature? (AMSTAR)***



# STEP 5: Contextualize the evidence

CHRSP identifies contextual factors.

CHRSP tailors its synthesis to the **context** of Newfoundland & Labrador at all stages of the project

Contextual factors may effect health outcomes and/or cost effectiveness.

CHRSP interprets findings in context.

Levels of Contextual Factors:



Patient populations



Other System Factors



Site of service and/or the service design,



Economics



Health human resources



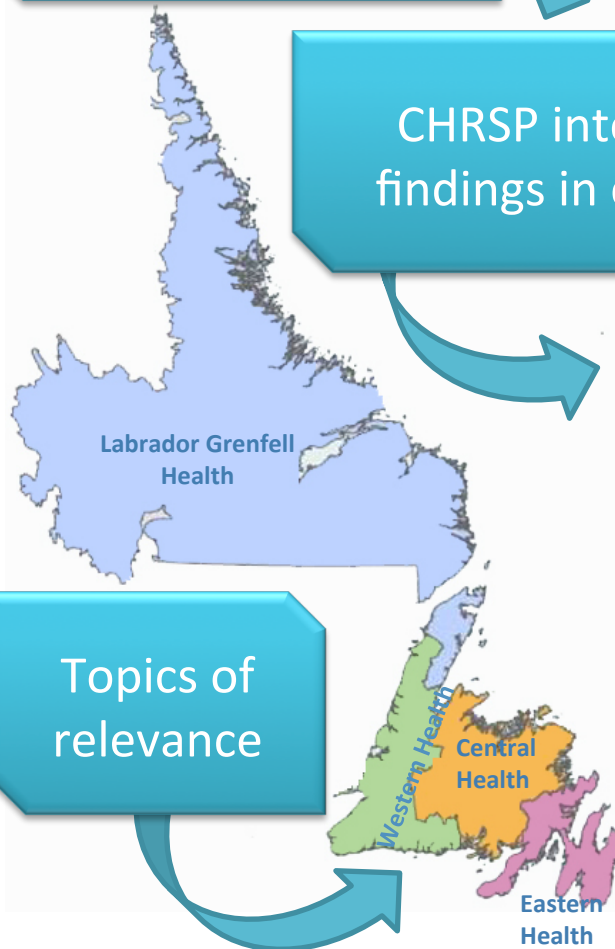
Politics



Organization and delivery of services

More about context here:  
[www.nlcahr.mun.ca/research/chrsp/](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/research/chrsp/)

Topics of relevance





# STEP 6: Implications

- Interpreting the evidence
- Summarizing implications for decision makers in NL



# STEP 7: Report

- External review: validity
- Report released as
  - Full EIC with:
    - Executive summary (4 p)
    - Lay/media summary
    - Other multi-media products, or
  - Rapid Evidence Report
- Dissemination & uptake
- Feedback and follow-up



# CHRSR Project Types:

## 1. The 'Evidence in Context' Report

- A full synthesis of research evidence on a topic identified through our solicitation process as being of high priority to decision makers in the province.
- Deliverables include a 35 to 50-page full report, a four-page executive summary, a one-page lay summary, and other multi-media products





## 2. *Rapid* **EVIDENCE** *Reports*

- Expedited, brief synthesis of a high-priority research topic, including:
  - a statement of the issue
  - background
  - a description of the scope/nature of the literature;
  - a summary of the principal features of the available evidence;
  - a comprehensive list of research literature from the past five years, as well as policy reports and other grey literature on the issue; and
  - a brief analysis of the types of issues that might influence the applicability of the evidence to the Newfoundland and Labrador context

# CHRSR projects 2008-2012

- The provision of dialysis services in rural and remote NL
- Interventions to prevent and treat childhood overweight and obesity in NL
- The development of a PET/CT program in NL
- Youth residential treatment options in NL
- The reprocessing and reuse of single-use medical devices in NL
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy for problem wounds
- Telehealth for specialist consultations in cardiology and dermatology
- Interprofessional team-based care for chronic disease management
- Age-friendly acute care
- Community-based service models for seniors
- Mobile mental health units for Western Health (RER)
- Safe patient handling for Eastern Health (RER)



# CHRSR projects 2013

## 2013 projects currently in progress

- Point-of-Care Testing -EIC
- Falls Prevention for seniors in LTC/acute care settings- EIC
- Flu Vaccination for healthcare workers -RER

## Other 2013 projects identified in 2013 Topic Selection

- Effectiveness of short-term health promotion strategies - RER
- Outpatient chronic disease services –RER
- Diabetes screening
- Managing aggression in dementia patients

# Distinguishing features of CHRSP



- focus on specific urgent questions identified by system not the researchers
- use both local and external expertise
- build teams that combine researchers and decision makers
- contextualize
- work quickly
- communicate effectively

**Does it work?**



# It does.

- topic selection complex but workable
  - each side has learned how to work together
- contextualization is feasible and helpful
- leading external experts fairly easy to recruit
- teams work well together
- the results have been produced fairly quickly
- the results have actually been used:
  - dialysis decision template
  - Youth Residential Treatment planning
  - Single-use Medical Devices policy
  - considerations for development of PET
  - patient handling protocols in Eastern Health

# Contact Us

[www.nlcahr.mun.ca/research/chrsp/](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/research/chrsp/)

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