

Quality Care Committee Report

By Amanda Steiman, MD, MSc, FRCPC

They say that the more things change, the more they stay the same. I have reflected on how the converse may be truer of 2021. Indeed, an observer from another planet could easily interpret 2021 as another year that was much like the last, and very different than those that came before, with ongoing masking, social distancing, decreased movement — to and from places of work, places of travel, and social gatherings. What has changed, however, is the mounting collective hope that there will be a flip side to the pandemic, that vaccines and public health measures have allowed for some cherished aspects of our lives to cautiously resume, and that life will get back to a (new) normal that is less foreign.

In this spirit, the initiatives of the Quality Care Committee's membership over the past year seem to reflect a shift from reactive support of a new frontier to visionary progress in support of the practice of rheumatology in Canada for many years to come, and in a changed world. I highlight but a few in this update. Claire Barber, Shirley Lake, and Cheryl Barnabe continue to nimbly and effectively lead the Quality, Resource Stewardship and Equity Subcommittees, respectively, and I continue to lead Access. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Sue Ranta for her steadfast commitment to and (seemingly prescient!) support of the committee.

Through 2021, members of the Quality Care Committee have worked towards the development of a transition care-related suite of resources, in collaboration with the Pediatrics Committee, to provide consistent and streamlined knowledge translation and support for local advocacy and care delivery. Appreciating that elements of virtual care are here to stay, a Virtual Care Best Practices consensus statement has been published. A Choosing Wisely recommendation on palliative rheumatic disease care was published in the spring. Two Indigenous Health Initiative workshops were delivered virtually.

We look forward to a year-to-come that brings opportunities for collaboration, growth, and application of lessons learned to best support the CRA membership in a familiar — but forever changed — practice milieu.

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