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### **Seniors Care Network and Partners Launch the Competency Framework for Interprofessional Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment**

Research team members from Seniors Care Network, the North East Specialized Geriatrics Centre, the Toronto Regional Geriatric Program and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT), in collaboration with the Regional Geriatric Programs of Ontario announce the completion of the Competency Framework for Interprofessional Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA). Project lead, Kelly Kay, Executive Director of Seniors Care Network says “the development of the Framework was prompted by growth in specialized geriatric services (SGS) to meet the increasing need for services for older people living with frailty across Ontario. This growth resulted in a significant influx of new interprofessional team members with varying geriatric skills. An absence of competencies against which to measure professional knowledge and skills, and the lack of a systematic way to identify learning gaps, made it difficult to support the development of clinicians newly entering the SGS practice environment”. According to Kay, the Framework provides a critical support for interprofessional geriatric teams, and the professional development of team members.

The Framework is the result of three years of extensive consultation with clinical experts in geriatrics from across Ontario. The development of this Framework began with the Phase 1 Development Panel who reviewed existing competency frameworks and developed the initial behavioural statements. A Phase 2 Expert Review Committee later focused on confirming the required domains of the CGA, and laying the foundation for the revision of the behavioural statements. In Phase 3, a Provincial Expert Delphi Panel – a group of geriatric experts from a variety of health professional disciplines who were identified by their local Regional Geriatric Program – completed three rounds of rigorous review, rating and revision, culminating in this final Framework.

The final Framework is organized into six practice areas. It includes 99 behavioural statements that are intended to describe the knowledge, skills, attitudes, judgements and actions expected of members of the interprofessional team participating in the CGA.

The implications for practice resulting from this framework are expected to include: (1) improved quality of assessments; (2) improved goal-based care planning; (3) better tailoring of appropriate interventions; (4) appropriate follow-up and follow through; and (5) improved consistency in assessment practices across SGS providers.

The Framework has been endorsed by the Regional Geriatric Programs of Ontario, and is available for download at <http://seniorscarenetwork.ca/resources/research-projects-and-reports/>