



2015-2016
Executive

Thursday, August 18th, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

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Coordinator**

Emily Hill

The Beyond the Mask (BTM) initiative of the Ontario's Anesthesiologists continues to move forward by building profile and recognition for anesthesiologists across the province. Responses to our introductory letter in the Spring provided some initial information as to how the BTM initiative might assist the Chiefs in their critical leadership roles. This second letter includes an update and an invitation to help us focus on building a program that is customized to meet the needs of Ontario's anesthesia chiefs/department leads.

One of our current projects is the development of a comprehensive **implementation toolkit for the Choosing Wisely guidelines**. As you may know, Health Quality Ontario is in the process of assessing performance across the province against these guidelines and will be issuing the first of what are expected to be annual reports on the performance of each hospital in the early fall. These reports will be shared with your hospital executive. Our implementation guide, complete with templates, tools, process flows and change management suggestions, anecdotes and case studies should be a robust resource for all anesthesia leaders. Let us know if this is something that you would find helpful?

In addition, we have begun designing an **administrative resource centre**. There is such a wealth of information available that we should not need to duplicate efforts. Many of you are already sharing tools such as checklists, protocols and pre-printed order sets. The opportunity here is to make this treasure trove accessible to all of the chiefs. We envision this library as a dynamic shared resource spanning all peri-operative activities. Please let us know what you would like to see in this repository: what would help your department function better, improve communication, and, of course, improve patient care? Please also let us know if you have materials that you are willing to share.

We are also developing a **mentorship program**. A number of you in your feedback to date, indicated the value of having access to more experienced and trusted individual/s who might provide guidance on a number of fronts. Some of you also indicated an interest in participating in a **Chiefs' Discussion Group** - a forum connecting peers across the province to share issues, opportunities, questions and insights. Please let us know if either of these initiatives are of interest and specifics as to how best to design them so that they are of most use to you.

The Section Executive believes strongly that Chiefs have a critical role to play as advocates, organizers, and promoters of our specialty. Your contributions to this initiative will have a direct impact on how Anesthesiologists are perceived. In light of recent OMA/MOHLTC developments, the need to go *Beyond the Mask* and for the leadership of anesthesiologists to demonstrate a positive, constructive approach has never been more important.

We wish to close by emphasizing that all responses will be held in the strictest of confidences. All feedback is extremely valuable and appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you. Please either respond to this email with your comments or [click here](#) to reach a brief questionnaire that reflects the content of this letter.

Yours truly,

Steve Brown, Chris Harle, Dave Neilipovitz
The Beyond the Mask Leadership Team