

COVID-19  
Community of  
Practice for Ontario  
Family Physicians

**Nov 15, 2024**

**Dr. Daniel Warshafsky**  
**Dr. Gihane Zarifa**



***Infectious Disease &  
Diabetes Pharmacotherapy***



Family & Community Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Ontario College of  
Family Physicians



# Infectious Disease & Diabetes Pharmacotherapy

Moderator:

- Dr. Ali Damji, Division Head, Primary Care, Trillium Health Partners and Family Physician, Credit Valley Family Health Team, Mississauga, ON

Panelists:

- Dr. Daniel Warshafsky, Toronto, ON
- Dr. Gihane Zarifa, Toronto, ON

Host:

- Dr. Jobin Varughese, Brampton, ON

The COVID-19 Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians is a one-credit-per-hour Group Learning program that has been certified for up to a total of 32 credits.

**Please note access to the Cert+ platform will be temporarily unavailable starting November 13, 2024 due to changes to the Mainpro+ program and Cert+ platform. We will be unable to submit credits on your behalf until after December 16. Similarly, you will be unable to submit your credits manually until after this date.**

# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the lands on which we are hosting this meeting include the traditional territories of many nations.

The OCFP and DFCM recognizes that the many injustices experienced by the Indigenous Peoples of what we now call Canada continue to affect their health and well-being. The OCFP and DFCM respects that Indigenous people have rich cultural and traditional practices that have been known to improve health outcomes.

I invite all of us to reflect on the territories you are calling in from as we commit ourselves to gaining knowledge; forging a new, culturally safe relationship; and contributing to reconciliation.

# Changing the way we work

## *A community of practice for family physicians during COVID-19*

At the conclusion of this series participants will be able to:

- Identify the current best practices for delivery of primary care within the context of COVID-19 and how to incorporate into practice.
- Describe point-of-care resources and tools available to guide decision making and plan of care.
- Connect with a community of family physicians to identify practical solutions for their primary care practice under current conditions.

### **Disclosure of Financial Support**

This CPD program has received in-kind support from the Ontario College of Family Physicians and the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto in the form of logistical and promotional support.

### **Potential for conflict(s) of interest:**

N/A

### **Mitigating Potential Bias**

- The Scientific Planning Committee has full control over the choice of topics/speakers.
- Content has been developed according to the standards and expectations of the Mainpro+ certification program.
- The program content was reviewed by a three-member national/scientific planning committee.

*Planning Committee:* Dr. Jobin Varughese (OCFP), Dr. Ali Damji (DFCM), Dr. Eleanor Colledge (DFCM), Dr. Harry O'Halloran, Julia Galbraith (OCFP), Pavethra Yogeswaran (OCFP), Marisa Schwartz (DFCM)

Previous webinars & related resources:

<https://www.dfc.utoronto.ca/covid-19-community-practice/past-sessions>



## **Dr. Daniel Warshafsky – Panelist**

Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health



## **Dr. Gihane Zarifa – Panelist**

Diabetes Chronic Disease Management Lead, Credit Valley FHT

# Speaker Disclosure

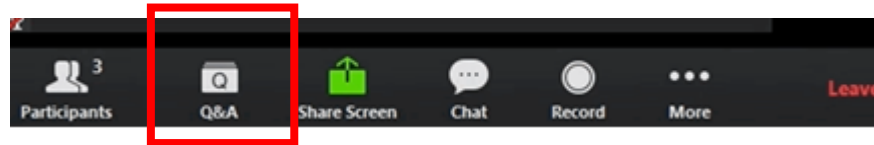
- Faculty Name: **Dr. Daniel Warshafsky**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
  - Grants/Research Support: N/A
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: N/A
  - Others: N/A
  
- Faculty Name: **Dr. Gihane Zarifa**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
  - Grants/Research Support: N/A
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: Ontario College of Family Physicians, Abbott, Novonordisk, CCRN, Bayer, GSK, Diabetes Simplified
  - Membership on advisory boards: N/A
  - Consulting Fees: Novonordisk, Abbott, CCRN, Embecta, Diabetes Simplified
  - Others: N/A

# Speaker Disclosure

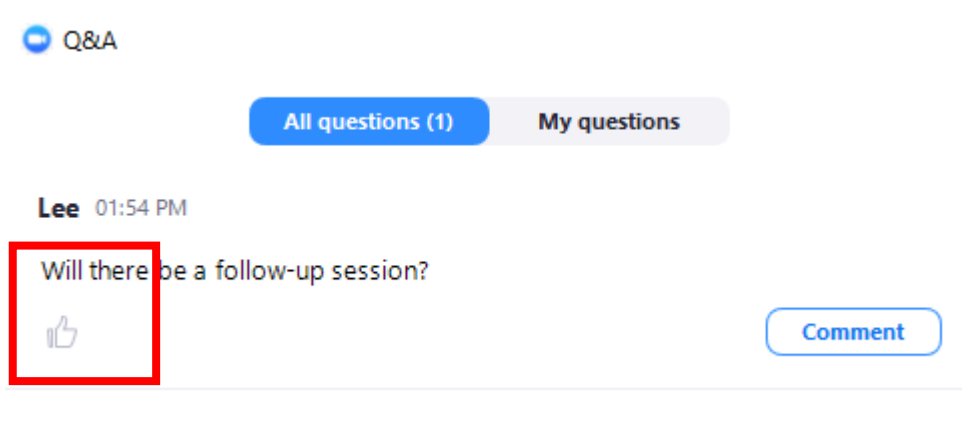
- Faculty Name: **Dr. Jobin Varughese**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
  - Grants/Research Support: N/A
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: Ontario College of Family Physicians
  - Others: Toronto Metropolitan University, School of Medicine (Interim Assistant Dean of Primary Care Education), William Osler Health System (Associate Vice President of Academics)
  
- Name: **Dr. Ali Damji**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
  - Grants/Research Support: N/A
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: Ontario Medical Association Section of General & Family Practice, Trillium Health Partners, Canadian Mental Health Association Peel Dufferin, Center for Effective Practice, GSK
  - Advisory boards: Medical Post Advisory Board, Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine, Center for Effective Practice
  - Others: N/A

# How to Participate

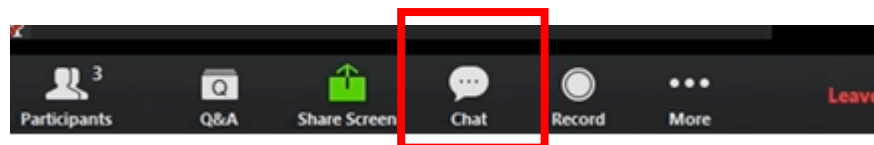
- All questions should be asked using the Q&A function at the bottom of your screen.



- Press the thumbs up button to upvote another guest's questions. Upvote a question if you want to ask a similar question or want to see a guest's question go to the top and catch the panels attention.



- Please use the chat box for networking purposes only.







## **Dr. Daniel Warshafsky – Panelist**

Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health



## **Dr. Gihane Zarifa – Panelist**

Diabetes Chronic Disease Management Lead, Credit Valley FHT

# Respiratory Season – How are we doing?

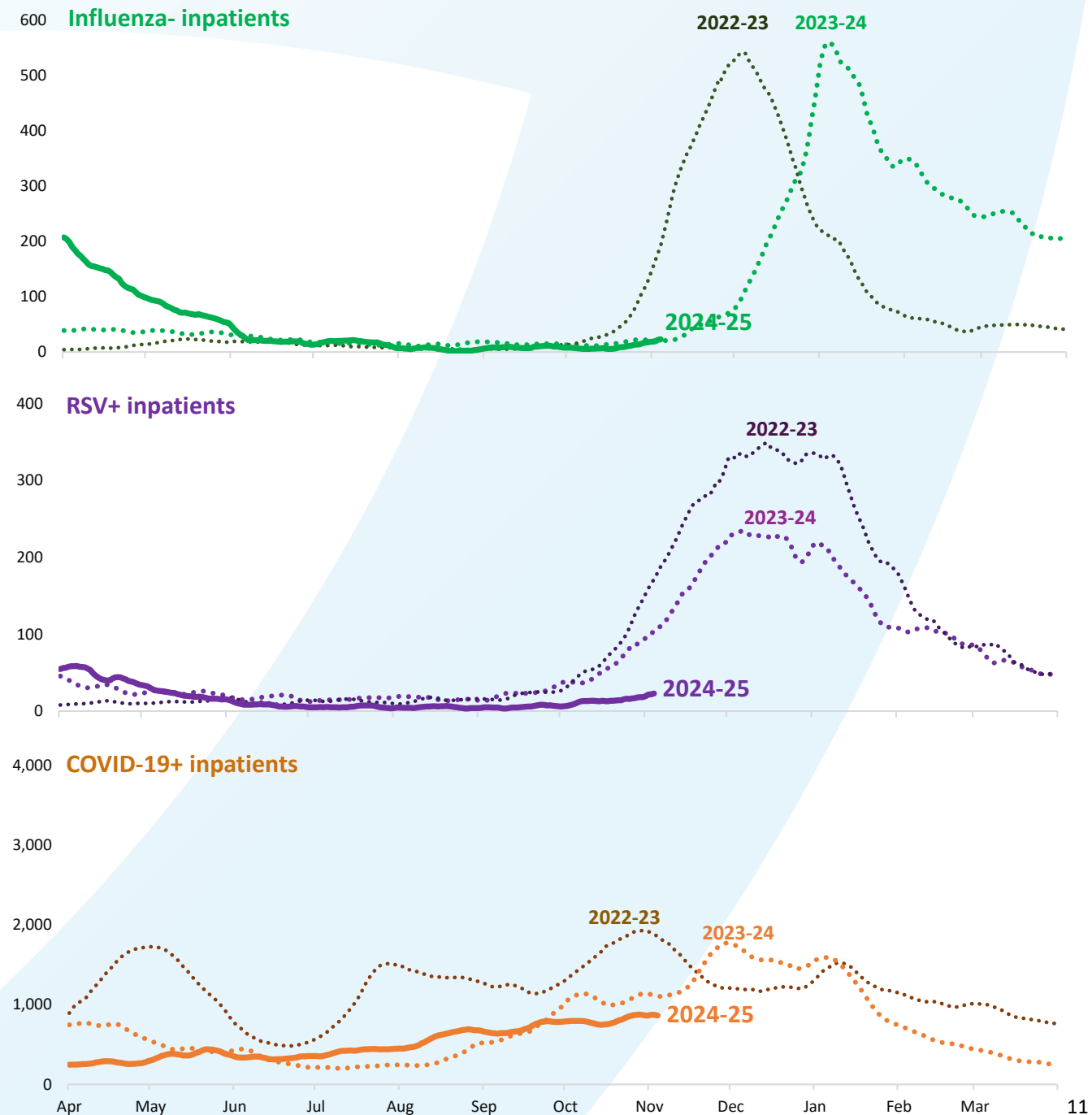
November 15, 2024

Ministry of Health and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health

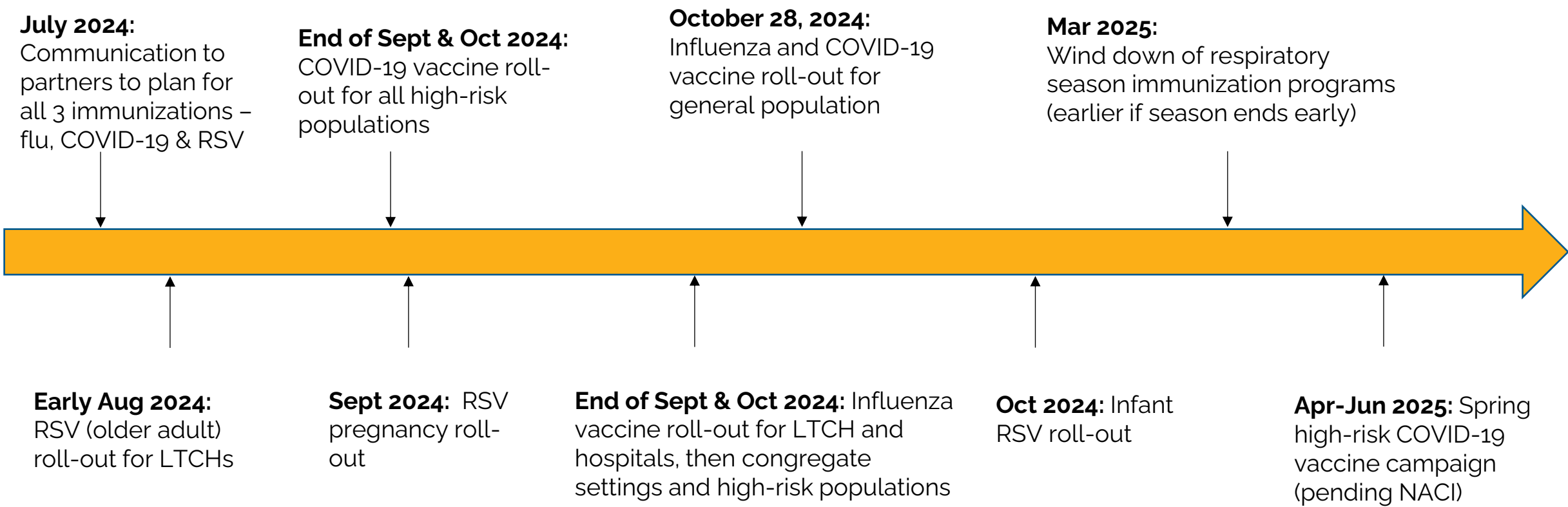
# How is Ontario's 2024-25 respiratory season shaping up in comparison with previous years?

Right: Daily Ontario hospital census data for influenza, RSV and COVID-19 inpatients: 2024-25 compared with 2023-24 and 2022-23 (All measures 7-day averages)

- **Influenza:** Signals suggesting similar timeline to the 2023-24 season, with a November start and peak in early- to mid-January.
- **RSV:** This year's wave is starting at least 1 month later than the (unusually early) 2023-24 and 2022-23 seasons. Suggests a peak for kids in early January followed by peak for seniors in late January / early February.
- **COVID-19:** Continues to be unpredictable, with waves driven mainly by emergence of new variants rather than regular seasonality. Currently at similar levels to 2023-24. Expect a post-holiday surge in early January.

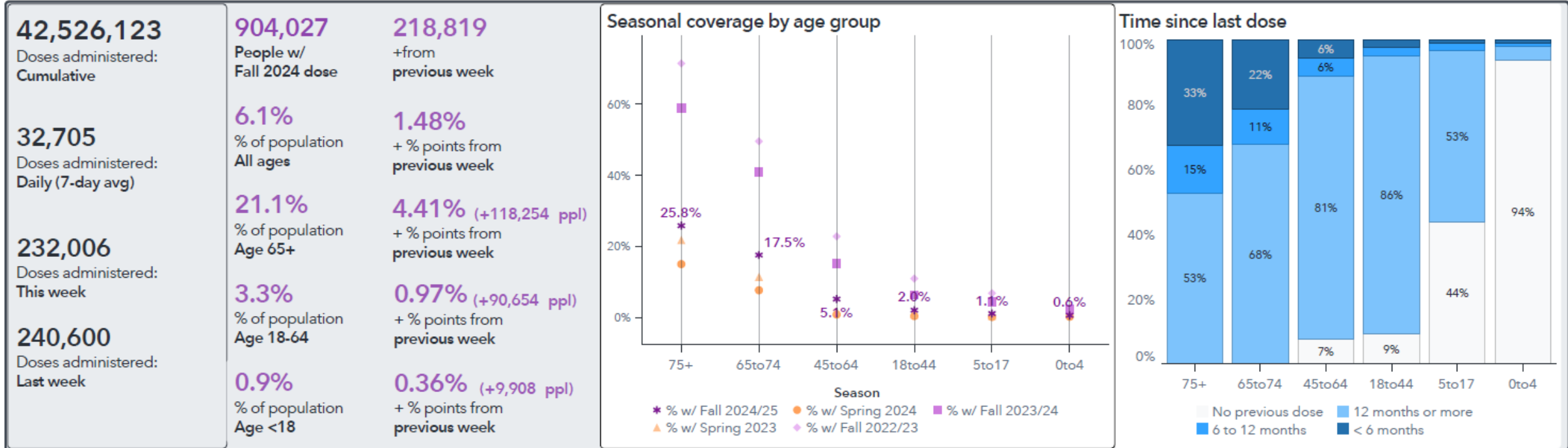


# 2024-25 Fall/Spring Immunizations Timeline

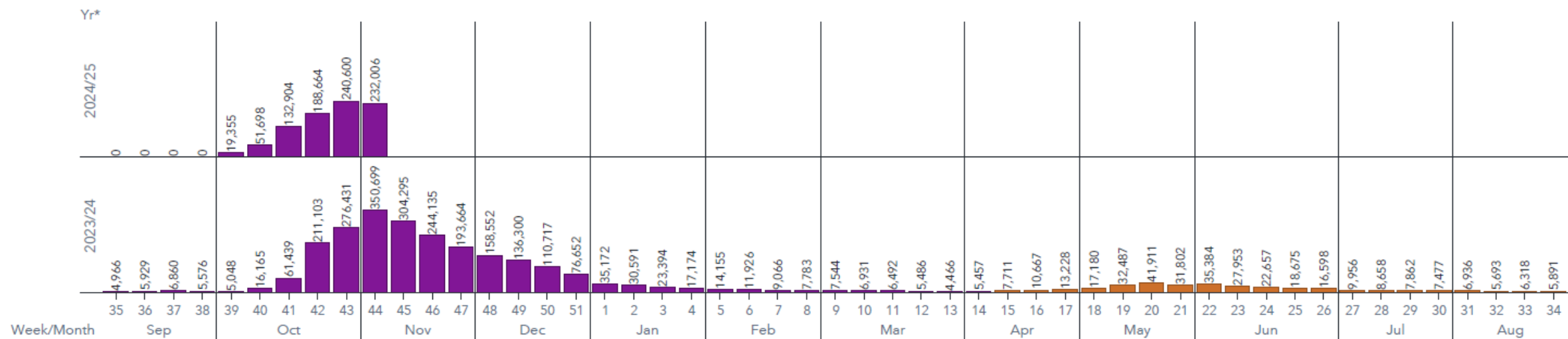


- Co-administration of seasonal immunizations is encouraged. They can also be co-administered with non-seasonal immunizations
- The pharmacy locator tool is up to date for sites providing COVID-19 immunizations - <https://www.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations/>

# 1. Weekly Summary: Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination program



Trending: Doses administered week by week



\*Fall 2024/25 vaccination start date: September 30, 2024

\*2023/24: September 14, 2023, to September 29, 2024; Spring 24 (April to September 2024)

## Retirement Home (RH) Residents

Total RH residents vaccinated with fall dose

**15,785**

% all RH residents with fall dose

**26.6%**

Change from previous report:

**4,161** residents  
**7.0** % points

## Long-Term Care (LTC) Home Residents

Total LTC residents vaccinated with fall dose

**15,555**

% all LTC residents with fall dose

**21.2%**

Change from previous report:

**4,969** residents  
**6.5** % points

RH residents who received a Fall 2023/24  
(From September 12, 2023 to March 31, 2024):

**37,563 (63.4%)**

% RH residents with a dose  
in the last 6 months

**39.5%**

LTC residents who received a Fall 2023/24 dose  
(From September 12, 2023 to March 31, 2024):

**45,290 (61.6%)**

% LTC residents with a dose in  
the last 6 months

**37.1%**

# Flu

*As of November 4, 2024:*

- **128,395** (+8,199 since October 28) doses of publicly funded flu vaccine have been distributed to **568** (+13 since October 28) LTCHs via PHUs.
- **33,235** (+1,970 since October 28) doses of publicly funded flu vaccine have been distributed to **242** (+13 since October 28) retirement homes via PHUs.
- **945,170** doses administered through pharmacy

# RSV

- Flying off the shelves!!! Way to go!!!
- Additional supply going out to PHUs this week
- Next shipment to Ontario will be early December
- BORN data on hospital uptake pending



# Mycoplasma Pneumoniae

- A common cause of mild respiratory illness or “walking pneumonia”
- Outbreaks occur mostly in crowded environments such as schools, college residence halls, and nursing homes. Outbreaks can be prolonged due to:
  - the long incubation period of M. pneumoniae, which is between one and four weeks
  - the ability of the bacteria to persist in the respiratory tract for several months
  - the prolonged presence of symptoms such as coughing
- Testing is done through nasal/oropharyngeal swab
  - **PHO PCR test requisition form:**  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/mycoplasma-pneumoniae-respiratory-pcr>
- In children with persistent or progressive disease, think about mycoplasma!

# Mycoplasma Pneumoniae

- Standard first-line therapy for community-acquired pneumonia (i.e., amoxicillin) is NOT effective against mycoplasma
- The first-line treatment for MP are macrolides:
  - Erythromycin: 25–50 mg/kg/day for 14 days
  - Clarithromycin: 10–15 mg/kg/day for 10 days
  - Azithromycin: 10 mg/kg/day for 3 days
- Doxycycline is recommended for macrolide-resistance, these cases often take longer to resolve than non-resistance MP
- Fluoroquinolones are another alternative, but generally contraindicated in children

**Table 1. Number of specimens tested, positive, and percent positive for *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae* PCR by month, October 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024**

Year and month	Number of specimens tested	Positive for <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i> (percent positive)	Positive for <i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i> (percent positive)
October 2023	242	5 (2.1%)	1 (0.4%)
November 2023	253	8 (3.2%)	0 (0.0%)
December 2023	276	4 (1.4%)	0 (0.0%)
January 2024	301	4 (1.3%)	0 (0.0%)
February 2024	271	4 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)
March 2024	224	4 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)
April 2024	257	4 (1.6%)	0 (0.0%)
May 2024	259	9 (3.5%)	0 (0.0%)
June 2024	221	14 (6.3%)	0 (0.0%)
July 2024	306	44 (14.4%)	0 (0.0%)
August 2024	423	130 (30.7%)	0 (0.0%)
September 2024	496	127 (25.6%)	2 (0.4%)
October 2024	791	245 (31.0%)	1 (0.1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,320</b>	<b>602 (13.9%)</b>	<b>4 (0.1%)</b>

**Note:** As data represent specimens, a single individual may have been counted multiple times. Year and month were assigned using specimen login date.  
**Data source:** Public Health Ontario Laboratory Information Management System

**Number and percentage of *M. pneumoniae* samples by age group with 23S rRNA gene mutations indicating macrolide resistance, January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024.**

Age group	Macrolide resistance mutation(s)	No resistance mutations	Total
<5 years	1 (5.3%)	18 (94.7%)	19 (100%)
5-11 years	12 (17.4%)	57 (82.6%)	69 (100%)
12-17 years	4 (10.3%)	35 (89.7%)	39 (100%)
18+ years	5 (45.6%)	6 (54.4%)	11 (100%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 (15.9%)</b>	<b>116 (84.1%)</b>	<b>138 (100%)</b>

**Note:** Includes only samples that have undergone whole genome sequencing.

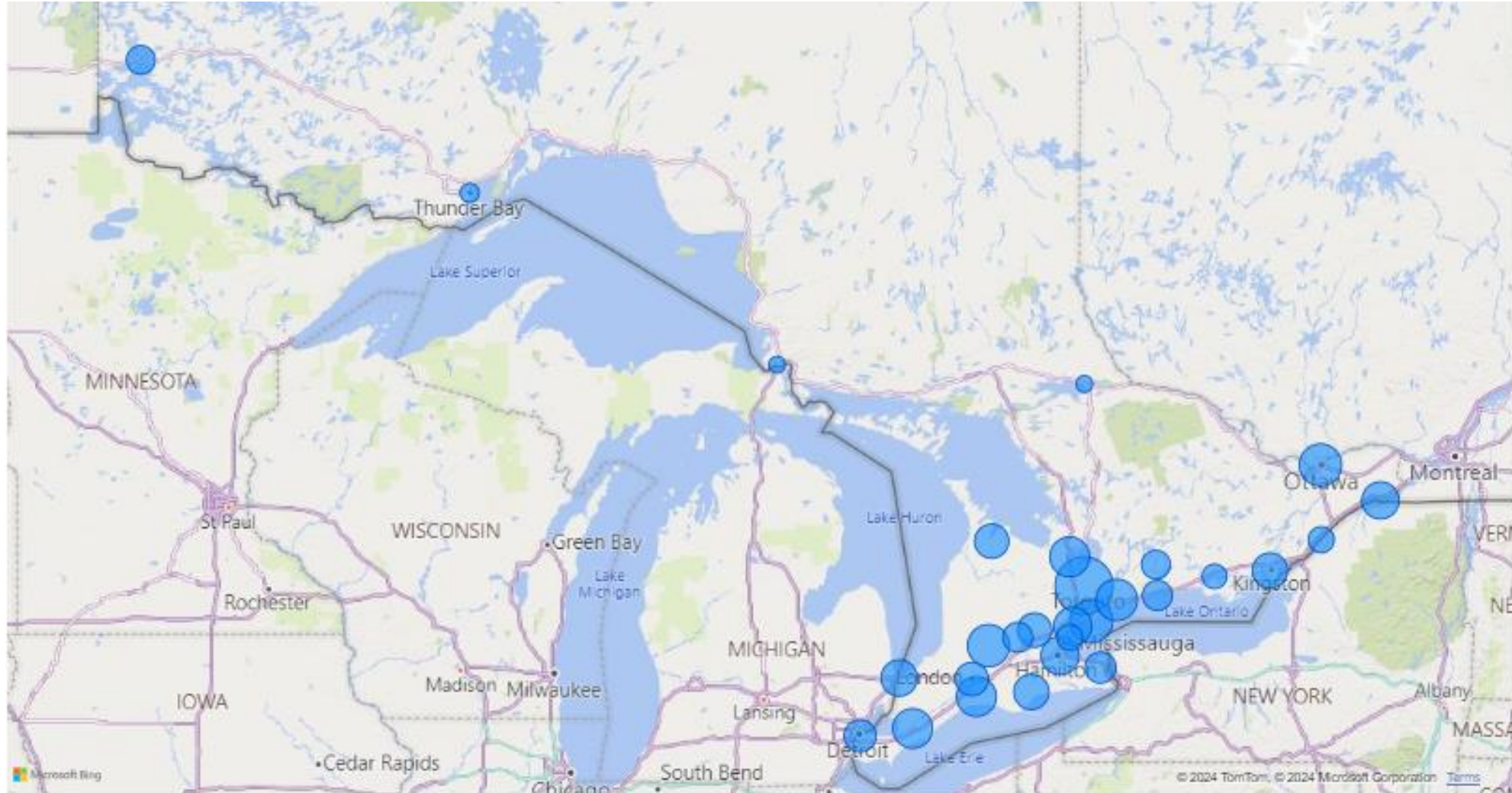
# Avian influenza (H5N1)

- Human infections with avian influenza A(H5N1) are rare and usually occur after close contact with infected birds or highly contaminated environments such as poultry farms or live animal markets
  - Infection may also occur after exposure to other infected animals, including wildlife and livestock, such as cattle
- Symptoms range from mild (often not identified) to severe, similar to other influenzas (e.g., cough, fever, runny nose, myalgias, pneumonia, ARDS)
  - The current dairy cattle related human cases have notably had conjunctivitis as a primary symptoms
- Approximately half of the over 900 human cases reported around the world since 1997 (mostly in Africa and Asia), have been fatal
- Diagnosis requires nasal/oropharyngeal swab
- Treatment with antiviral medications can be effective, ideally started within 48 hours

# Avian influenza case in Canada

- On Saturday, November 9, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer for British Columbia reported that an individual in British Columbia has tested presumptive positive for avian influenza (also known as bird flu) caused by the H5 virus.
- Samples were sent to the Public Health Agency of Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) in Winnipeg and the NML confirmed the human case of H5N1 on November 13, 2024.
- The Office of the Provincial Health Officer for British Columbia has advised that public health is following up with contacts who may have been exposed to assess for symptoms and provide guidance on testing and prevention measures. The source of exposure is under investigation.
- Based on current evidence in Canada, the **risk to the general public remains low** at this time. To date, there has been no evidence of sustained person-to-person spread of the virus in any of the cases identified globally.
- Human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) is rare and usually occurs after close contact with infected birds or highly contaminated environments.
- This is the first domestically acquired human case of H5N1 avian influenza in Canada. In 2014, Canada reported one fatal travel-associated case in a citizen who had travelled to China.
- As a general [precaution to prevent avian influenza infections](#), members of the public are reminded to not handle live or dead wild birds or other wild animals, and to keep pets away from sick or dead animals. People who work with animals or in environments contaminated by animals should take precautions, including using other [personal protective measures](#) to reduce the risk of getting or spreading respiratory infectious diseases.

# Ontario: Wildlife positive samples by PHU



# US: Summary of detections (as of October 17, 2024)

Weekly Snapshot for Week Ending October 5, 2024

## AT A GLANCE

CDC influenza (flu) surveillance systems show no indicators of unusual influenza activity in people, including avian influenza A(H5N1).

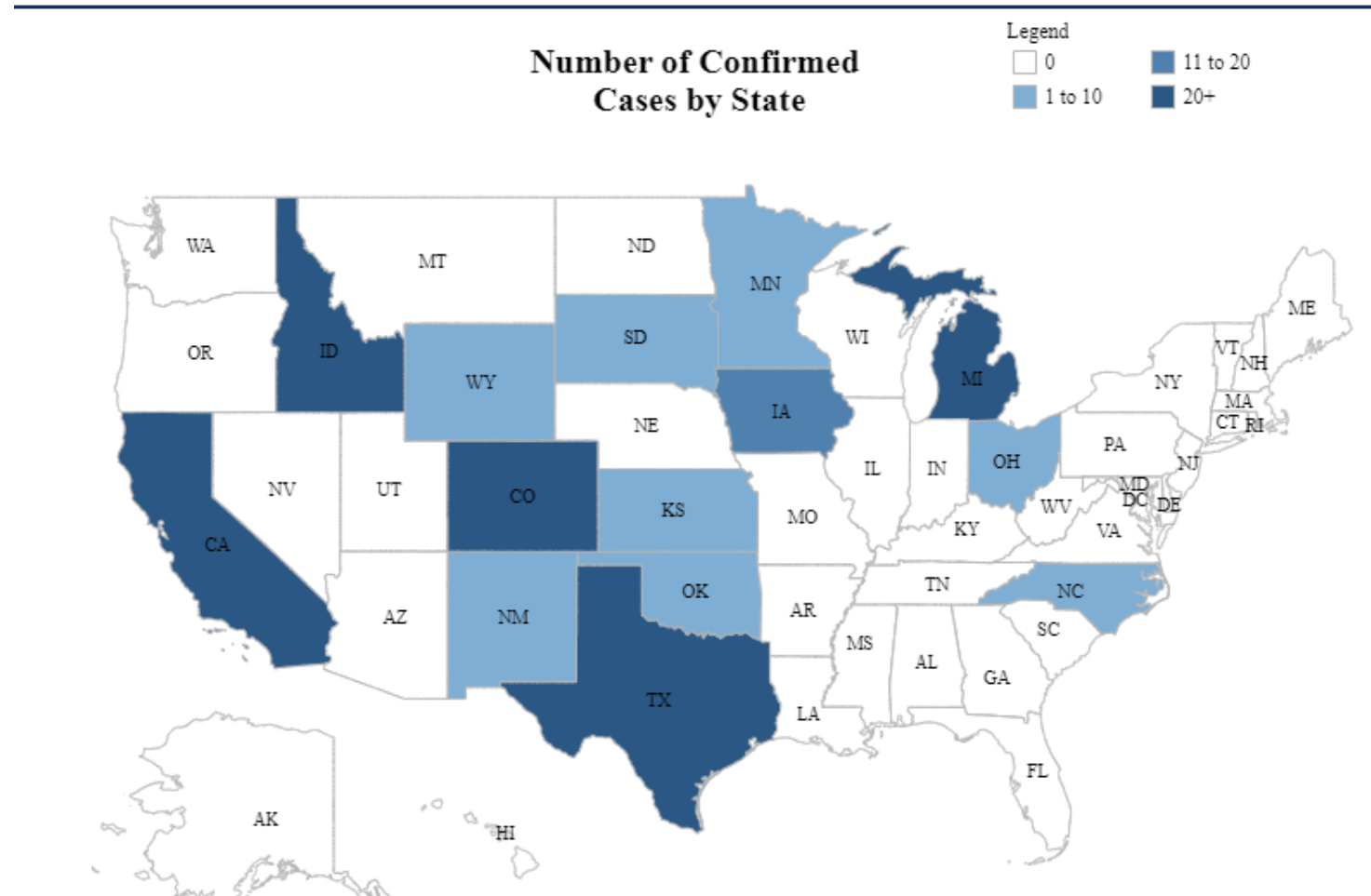
Species	(cumulative totals)	Change since last update
Human	25 cases (since April 2024) (15 following exposure to dairy cows, 9 following exposure to poultry, 1 unknown)	+11
Wild Bird	10,420 birds detected	+134
Poultry	103,474,421 birds affected	+2,695,470 (1.85M from commercial egg table layer in Utah, 0.8M from commercial egg table layer in Washington)
<a href="#">Wild and domestic mammal</a>	402 detections	+3
Livestock	304 herds affected	+65



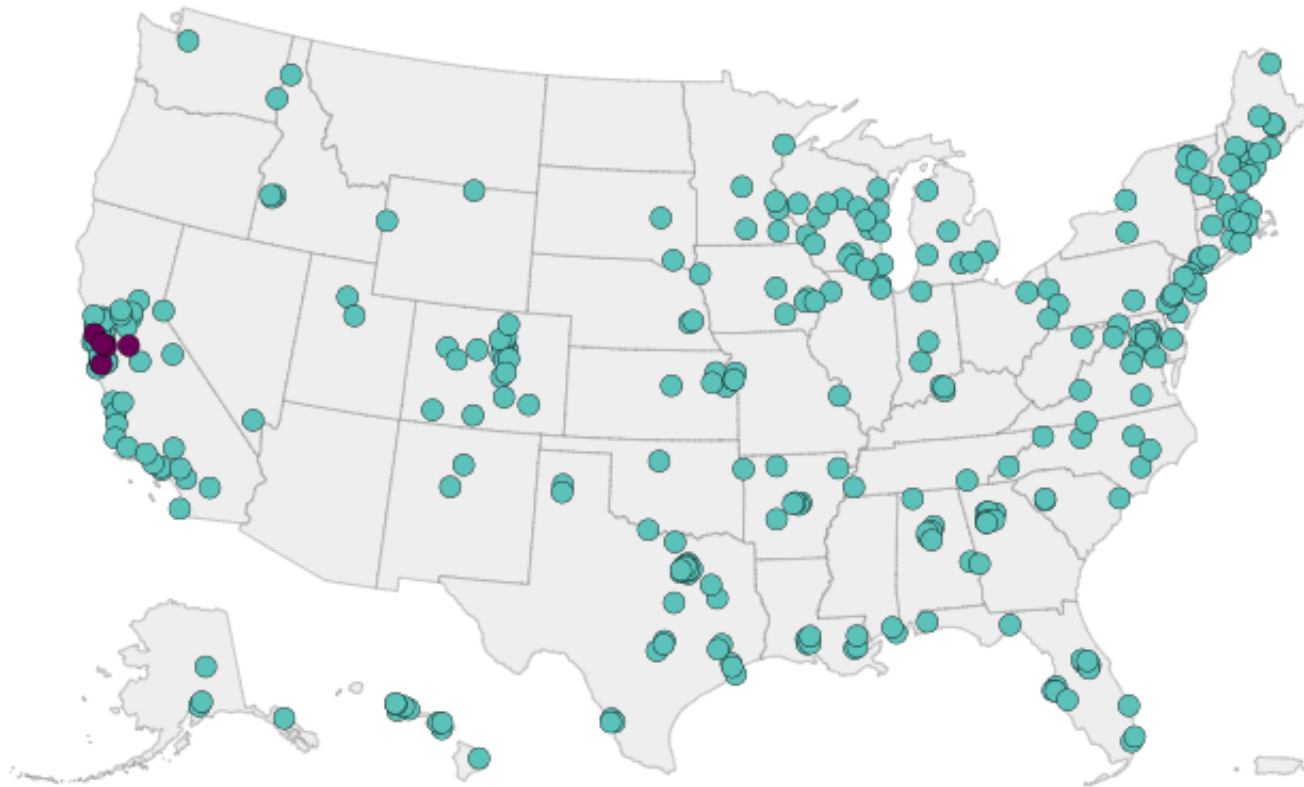
# US: Confirmed cases of HPAI in domestic livestock

Confirmed Cases Total Outbreak  
**320**

States Affected Total Outbreak  
**14**



# US: Avian Influenza A (H5) Virus Detections in Wastewater (September 29 – October 5, 2024)



Select a detection type below to add or remove it from the map.

H5 Detection

No Detection

No Samples in Last Week

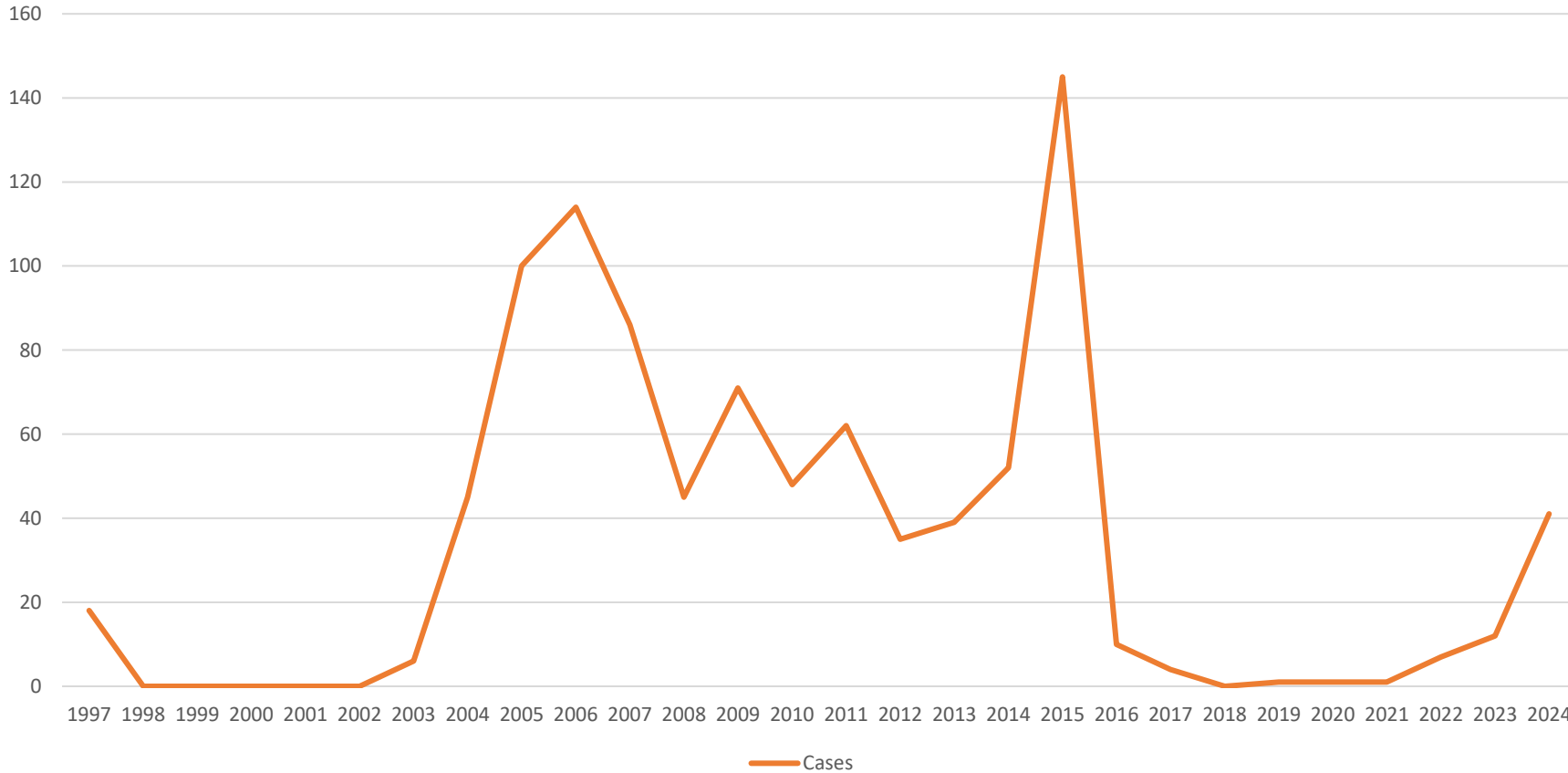
CDC receives weekly avian influenza A(H5) virus data from an academic partner (approximately 150 sites) and some state health departments. In each site, wastewater sampling and testing occurs one or more times during the week.

Wastewater data cannot determine the source of avian influenza A(H5) viruses. They could come from a human or from an animal (like a bird) or an animal product (like milk from an infected cow), and detections of avian influenza A(H5) virus in wastewater do not necessarily indicate human cases.

Each dot on the map represents a wastewater sampling site. For each site, results are reported as "H5 Detection" when any of the samples were positive during the week reported. When avian influenza A(H5) virus is not detected in any of the samples, then the site is classified as "No Detection." All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received. Data will be updated on this site every Friday.



# Global: Reported Global Human Cases with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1) (HPAI H5N1), 1997-2024



## 2024 Cases:

- Cambodia: 10
- United States: 25 (+11)
- Australia: 1
- Vietnam: 3 (+2)
- China: 2



# Updates in type 2 Diabetes Pharmacotherapy



# Agenda

1. Highlights from updated Diabetes Canada pharmacotherapy chapter
2. Updates on renoprotective medications:
  - nsMRA: Finerenone
  - GLP1RA : Semaglutide renal trial
3. Once weekly basal insulin - Icodec
4. Resources

# PARADIGM SHIFTS IN TREATMENT OF T2D: 2020 DIABETES GUIDELINES

- Assess glycemic control, cardiovascular and renal status\*, recent dietary patterns and weight change †
- Select individualized A1C target (see Chapter 8, 2018 CPG)
- Provide and/or refer for diabetes education (see Chapter 7, 2018 CPG)
- Start healthy behaviour interventions (see Chapters 10,11,17, 2018 CPG)

Emphasis on early control

**GOAL: Attain A1C target by 3 months**

Lifestyle changes expected to reduce blood glucose levels  
No pharmacotherapy

Start metformin  
(if A1C is >1.5% above target, start metformin plus a second agent)

Symptomatic  
me

Emphasis on Early combination

If A1C NOT at target at 3 months

Start metformin

Adjust or advance therapy

Reassess A1C in 3-6 months (see Chapter 9, 2018 CPG)

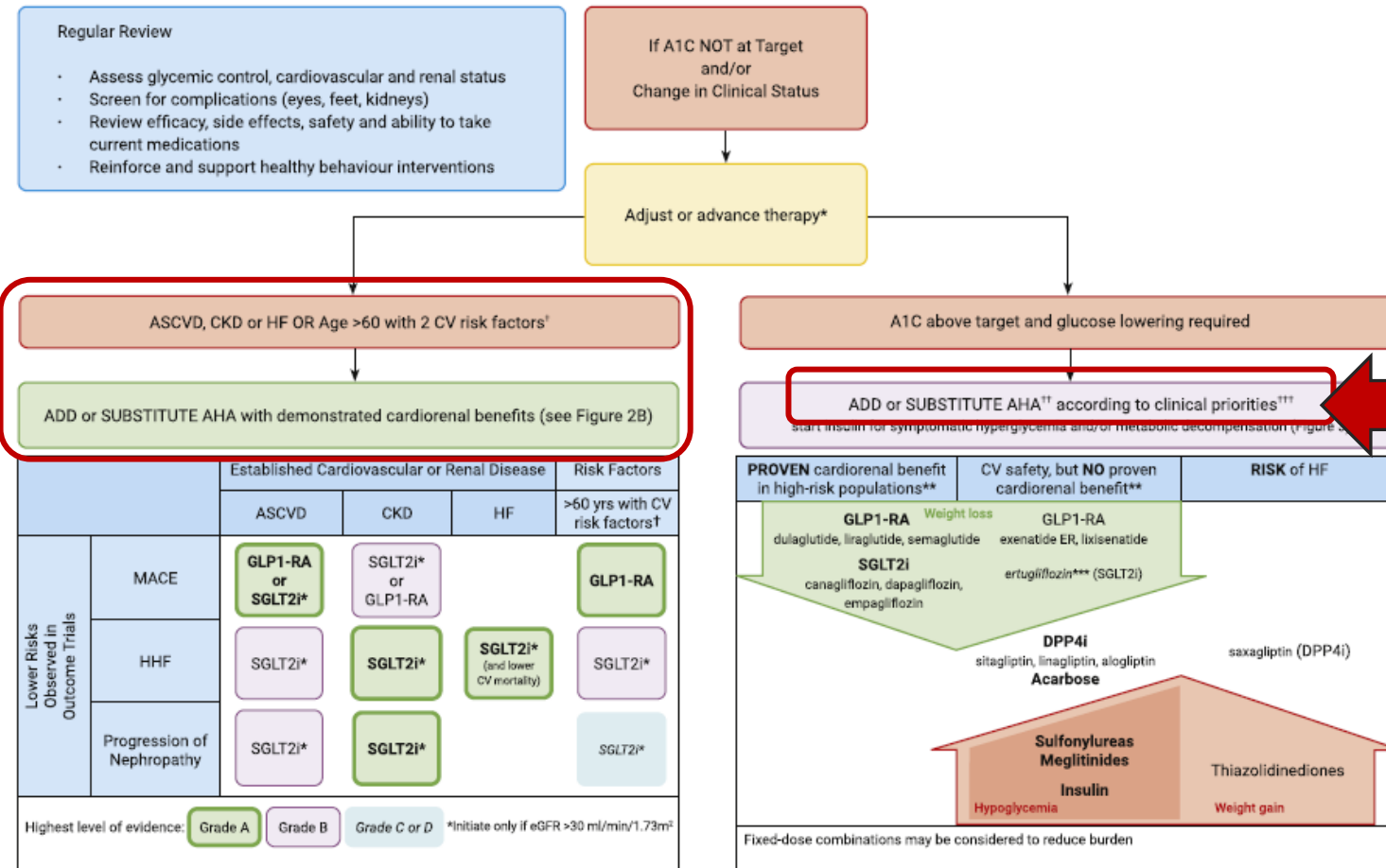
Go to Figure 2

Go to Figure 3

# PARADIGM SHIFTS IN TREATMENT OF T2D: 2020 DIABETES GUIDELINES

Shift from glucose-centric to **individualized organ protection** treatment

L. Lipscombe et al. / Can J Diabetes 44 (2020) 575–591



Emphasis on **CLINICAL PRIORITIES** management

\* Changes in clinical status may necessitate adjustment of glycemic targets and/or deprescribing.  
 † Tobacco use; dyslipidemia (use of lipid-modifying therapy or a documented untreated low-density lipoprotein (LDL) ≥3.4 mmol/L, or high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (HDL-C) <1.0 mmol/L for men and <1.3 mmol/L for women, or triglycerides ≥2.3 mmol/L); or hypertension (use of blood pressure drug or untreated systolic blood pressure [SBP] ≥140 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure [DBP] ≥95 mmHg).  
 †† All antihyperglycemic agents (AHAs) have Grade A evidence for effectiveness to reduce blood glucose levels.  
 ††† Consider degree of hyperglycemia, costs and coverage, renal function, comorbidity, side effect profile and potential for pregnancy.  
 \*\* In CV outcome trials performed in people with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), chronic kidney disease (CKD), heart failure (HF) or at high cardiovascular (CV) risk.  
 \*\*\* VERTIS (CV outcome trial for ertugliflozin) presented at American Diabetes Association (ADA) June 2020 showed noninferiority for major adverse CV events (MACE). Manuscript not published at time of writing.  
 A1C, glycated hemoglobin; DPP4i, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; GLP1-RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists; exenatide ER, exenatide extended-release; HHF, hospitalization for heart failure; SGLT2i, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitors; yrs, years.

Figure 2A. Reviewing, adjusting or advancing therapy in type 2 diabetes.

ASCVD, CKD or HF OR Age >60 with 2 CV risk factors<sup>†</sup>

ADD or SUBSTITUTE AHA with demonstrated cardiorenal benefits (see Figure 2B)

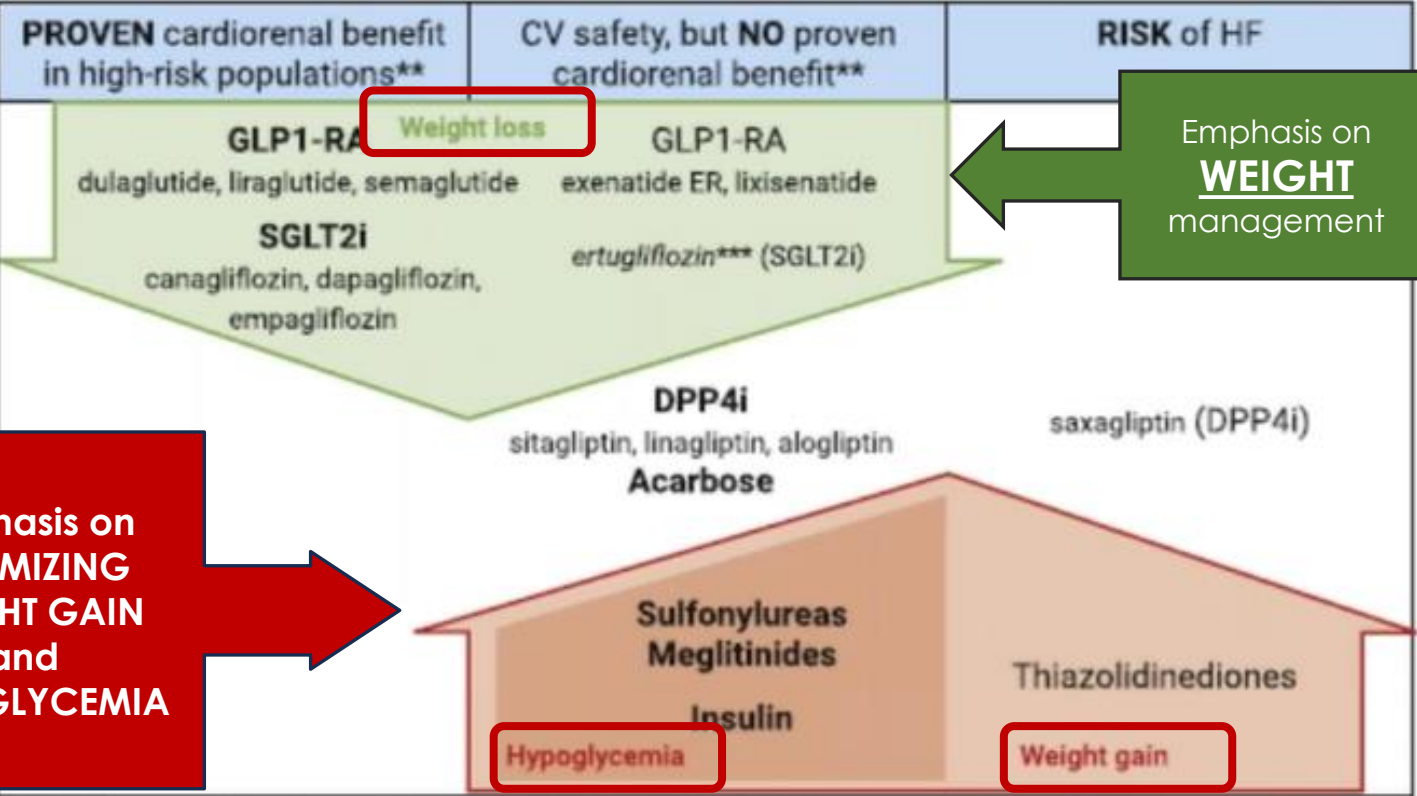
		Established Cardiovascular or Renal Disease			Risk Factors
		ASCVD	CKD	HF	>60 yrs with CV risk factors <sup>†</sup>
Lower Risks Observed in Outcome Trials	MACE	GLP1-RA or SGLT2i*	SGLT2i* or GLP1-RA		GLP1-RA
	HHF	SGLT2i*	SGLT2i*	SGLT2i* (and lower CV mortality)	SGLT2i*
	Progression of Nephropathy	SGLT2i*	SGLT2i*		SGLT2i*

Highest level of evidence: Grade A Grade B Grade C or D \*Initiate only if eGFR >30 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>



A1C above target and glucose lowering required

ADD or SUBSTITUTE AHA<sup>††</sup> according to clinical priorities<sup>†††</sup>  
start insulin for symptomatic hyperglycemia and/or metabolic decompensation (Figure 3)



**Emphasis on MINIMIZING WEIGHT GAIN and HYPOGLYCEMIA**

tee. Fixed-dose combinations may be considered to reduce burden







# Updates on renoprotective therapies

ns-MRA

# KDIGO Staging and Prognosis of CKD

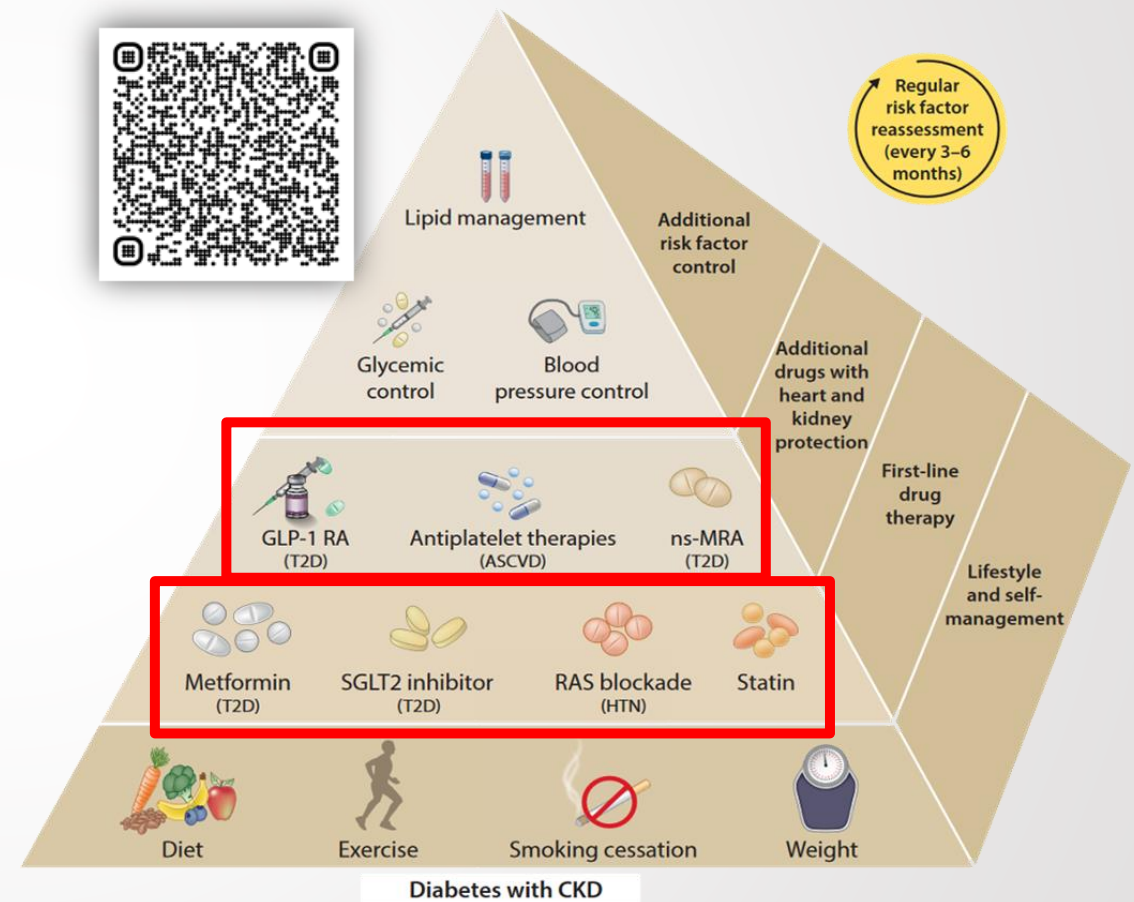
Prognosis of CKD by GFR and albuminuria categories: KDIGO 2012				Persistent albuminuria categories		
				Description and range		
				A1	A2	A3
				Normal to mildly increased	Moderately increased	Severely increased
				< 30 mg/g < 3 mg/mmol	30–300 mg/g 3–30 mg/mmol	> 300 mg/g > 30 mg/mmol
GFR categories (ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> ) Description and range	G1	Normal or high	≥ 90	Low risk	Moderately increased risk	High risk
	G2	Mildly decreased	60–89	Low risk	Moderately increased risk	High risk
	G3a	Mildly to moderately decreased	45–59	Moderately increased risk	High risk	Very high risk
	G3b	Moderately to severely decreased	30–44	High risk	Very high risk	Very high risk
	G4	Severely decreased	15–29	Very high risk	Very high risk	Very high risk
	G5	Kidney failure	< 15	Very high risk	Very high risk	Very high risk

## Relative risk of adverse outcomes

-  Low risk
-  Moderately increased risk
-  High risk
-  Very high risk

# KDIGO 2022 Recommendations for Type 2 Diabetes and CKD

- KDIGO 2022 provided new guidelines of managing diabetes and CKD
- 1st line:
  - Metformin, SGLT2i, ACEi or ARB, Statin
- 2nd line
  - Hyperglycemia: GLP-1 RA
  - Improve outcome in people with CKD and albuminuria: Finerenone (ns-MRA)



# Comparison between steroidal MRAs (spironolactone and eplerenone) and nonsteroidal MRA finerenone

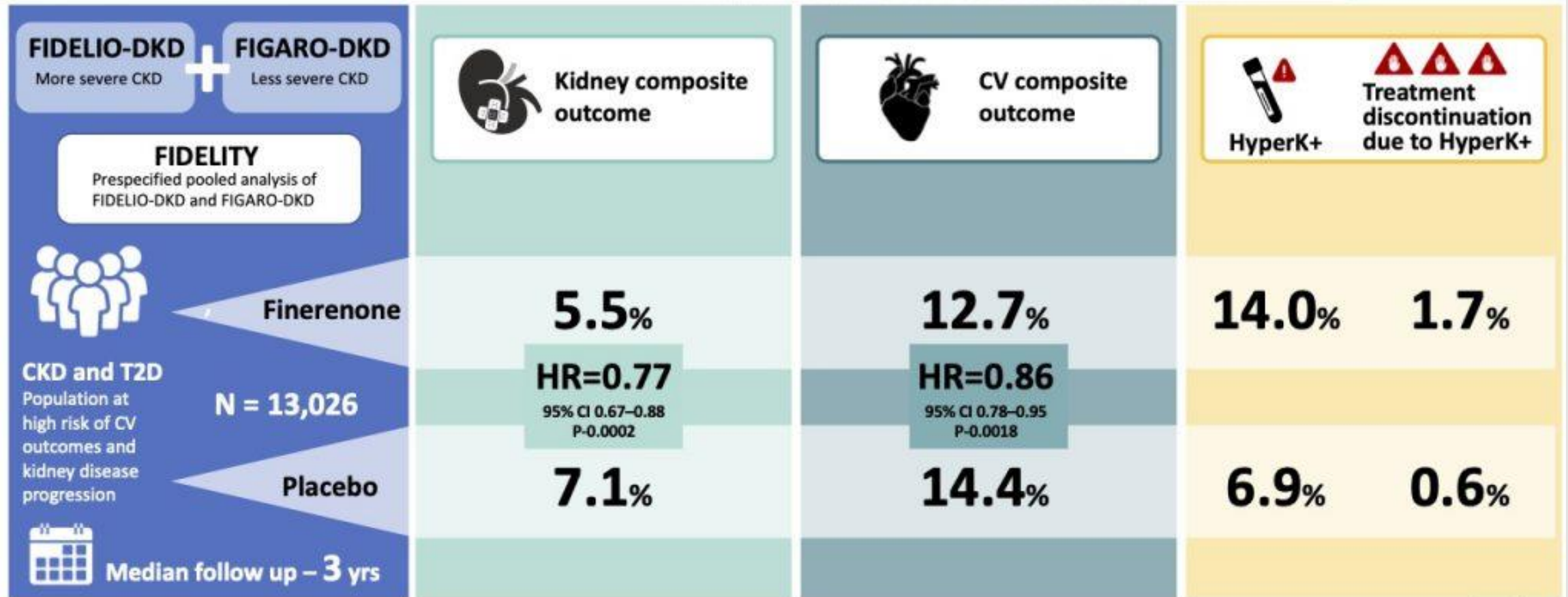
	Aldosterone antagonists		Finerenone
	Spironolactone	Eplerenone	Finerenone
<b>Structural properties</b>	Flat (steroidal)	Flat (steroidal)	Bulky (nonsteroidal)
<b>Potency to MR</b>	High	Moderate	High
<b>Selectivity to MR</b>	Low	Moderate	High
<b>CNS penetration</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Sexual side effects</b>	Yes (gynecomastia, ED)	Less than spironolactone	No
<b>Hyperkalemia</b>	Yes	Yes	Moderately increased
<b>Tissue distribution</b>	Kidney > heart (at least 6-fold)	Kidney > heart (~3-fold)	Balanced kidney : heart (1:1)
<b>Half-life</b>	>20 h	4-6 h	2-3 h
<b>Active metabolites</b>	++	-	-
<b>Effect on BP</b>	+++	++	+

MR, mineralocorticoid receptor

Adapted from: Kintscher U et al. Br J Pharmacol. 2022;179:3220–3234.

# Finerenone in mild to severe chronic kidney disease and type 2 diabetes: The FIDELITY prespecified pooled analysis

Abstract number: WCN22-0843



Rossing P et al

Visual Abstract by  
Aakash Shingada DNB  
@aakashshingada

**CONCLUSION:** The FIDELITY prespecified pooled analysis provides robust evidence of cardiorenal benefits in patients with CKD and type 2 diabetes across a wide spectrum of CKD severity. Finerenone was well tolerated, with only ~2% of patients having to discontinue treatment due to hyperkalemia. Treatment-induced hyperkalemia was manageable with routine potassium monitoring

& Virtual  
**WCN'22**



# Updates on renoprotective therapies

GLP1 RA Semaglutide- FLOW trial

# FLOW objectives



## Primary objective

To demonstrate that **semaglutide delays the progression of renal impairment and lowers the risk of renal and cardiovascular mortality** compared to placebo, both added to standard-of-care, in subjects with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease

## Secondary objectives

To compare the effect of treatment with semaglutide versus placebo with regards to **cardiovascular morbidity, peripheral artery disease, glycaemic control, body weight, blood pressure, and safety**



# Semaglutide for CKD in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes: “FLOW”ing with the Semaglu“TIDE”



## METHODS



International, double-blind, placebo-controlled  
28 countries



**Type 2 DM and CKD:**  
GFR 50-75 ml/min +  
ACR 300-5000 mg/g  
or



GFR 25-<50 ml/min +  
ACR 100-5000 mg/g



Median follow-up,  
3.4 years



Major kidney  
disease events



Death from  
any causes



Adverse event leading  
to discontinuation



Major kidney disease events- kidney failure,  $\geq 50\%$  reduction in GFR, death from CV or kidney-related causes

**Placebo**

n = 1766



**7.5 events**  
per 100  
patient-years

**279(15.8%)**

**211(11.9%)**



**HR 0.76**

(95% CI, 0.66-0.88)

**HR 0.80**

(95% CI, 0.67-0.95)

**Semaglutide**

n = 1767



**5.8 events**  
per 100  
patient-years

**227(12.8%)**

**233(13.2%)**

HR= Hazard ratio

**Reference:** Perkovic, V et al. Effects of Semaglutide on Chronic Kidney Disease in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes. NEJM, May 2024.

VA by Anjana Gopal @anjanagopal9

**Conclusion:** Semaglutide reduced the risk of clinically important kidney outcomes and death from cardiovascular causes in patients with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease.



# New insulins

From daily to weekly

# Who to consider for Insulin Therapy in

## When to Consider Basal Insulin

- ✓ A1C above target despite multiple
- ✓ New diagnosis A1C  $\geq$  8.5%
- ✓ Metabolic decompensation
- ✓ End-organ failure
- ✓ Planning and during pregnancy
- ✓ Acute illness
- ✓ Prolonged course of steroids
- ✓ Intolerance to oral medications
- ✓ **Any time you consider this is an appropriate option for your patients from diagnosis onwards**

## When NOT to Initiate Insulin

- There are no contraindications for the use of insulin, but it may not be appropriate for:
- Some older, asymptomatic patients, who may not gain sufficient benefit because of short life expectancy
- People limited in their capacity (physical or cognitive) to manage their diabetes who are at greater risk of hypoglycemia

# Guideline recommendations on insulin therapy

## Regular review

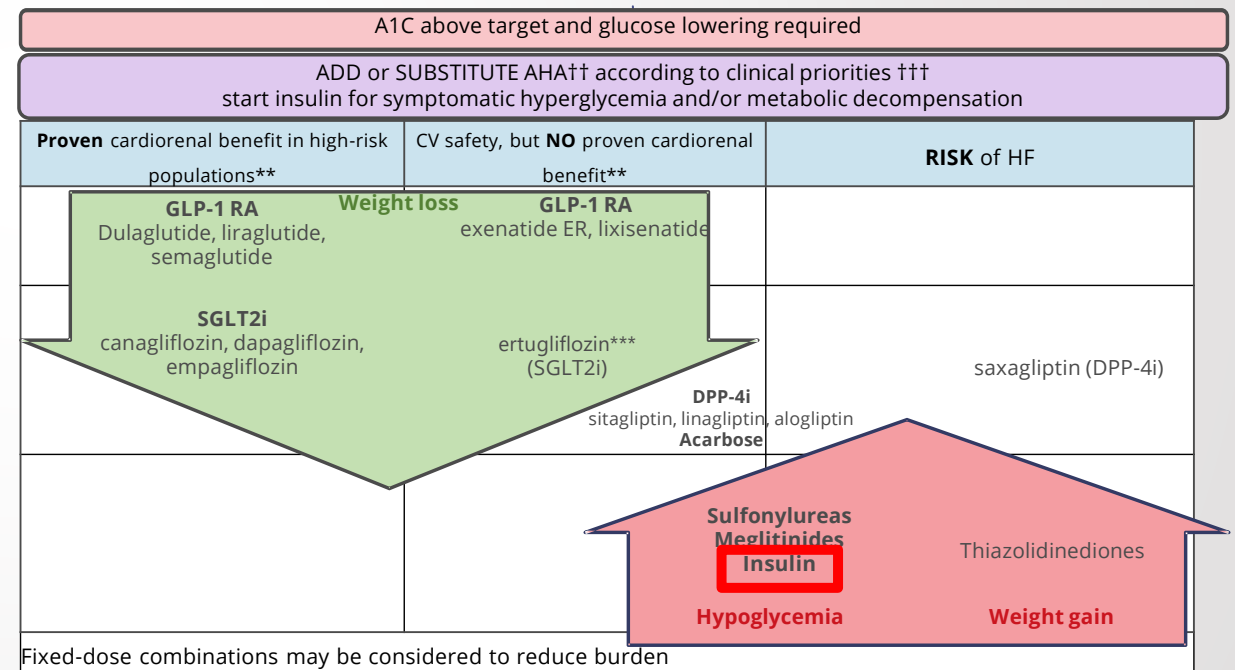
- Assess glycaemic control, CV and renal status
- Screen for complications (eyes, feet, kidneys)
- Review efficacy, side effects, safety and ability to take current medications
- Reinforce and support healthy behaviour interventions

If A1C NOT at target and/or change in clinical status

Adjust or advance therapy\*

## Guideline Recommendation for Insulin in Type 2 Diabetes

- In people not achieving glycaemic targets on existing noninsulin antihyperglycaemic medication(s), the addition of a **basal insulin regimen should be considered over premixed insulin or bolus-only regimens**, if lower risk of hypoglycemia and/or preventing weight gain are priorities.
- In adults with type 2 diabetes treated with basal insulin therapy, if minimizing risk of hypoglycemia is a priority:
  - **Long-acting insulin analogues** should be considered over NPH insulin.
  - **Insulin degludec or insulin glargine U-300** may be considered over insulin glargine U-100 to reduce overall and nocturnal hypoglycemia severe hypoglycemia



\*Changes in clinical status may necessitate adjustment of glycaemic targets and/or deprescribing. †Tobacco use dyslipidemia or hypertension. ††All AHAs have Grade A evidence for effectiveness to reduce blood glucose levels. †††Consider degree of hyperglycemia, costs and coverage, renal function, comorbidity, side effect profile and potential for pregnancy.

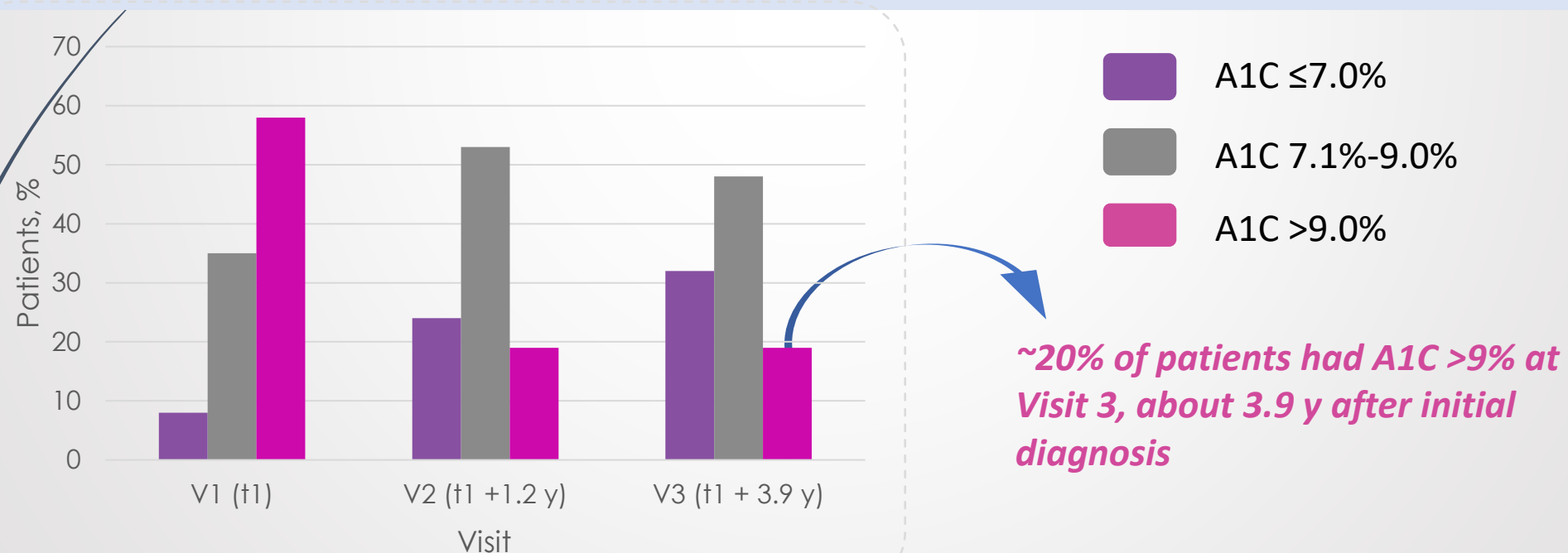
\*\*In CV outcome trials performed in people with ASCVD, CKD, HF or at high CV risk. †††VERTIS presented at ADA June 2020 showed noninferiority for MACE.

AHA, antihyperglycaemic agent; ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases; CKD, chronic kidney disease; CV, cardiovascular disease; DPP-4i, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor; GLP-1 RA, glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonist; HF, heart failure; HbA1c, hospitalization for heart failure; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular events; SGLT2i, sodium glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitor  
 Lipscombe, Lorraine, Sonia Butalia, Kaberi Dasgupta, Dean T. Eurich, Lori MacCallum, Bajju R. Shah, Scot Simpson, and Peter A. Senior. "Pharmacologic Glycemic Management of Type 2 Diabetes in Adults: 2020 Update." Canadian Journal of Diabetes 44, no. 7 (October 1, 2020): 575-91. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjcd.2020.08.001>.

# Although Recommended, There are Long Delays Before Insulin is Initiated

Studies show that insulin initiation is delayed until after multiple oral antidiabetic drug (OAD) failures and deterioration of glycemic control well beyond recommended guidelines<sup>1</sup>

A recent **Canadian survey of family physicians** showed that FPs waited an average of **9.2 years** before initiating insulin in patients with T2D, at which point A1C levels were well above target, and resultant diabetes-related complications had begun to develop<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1751991816300997>

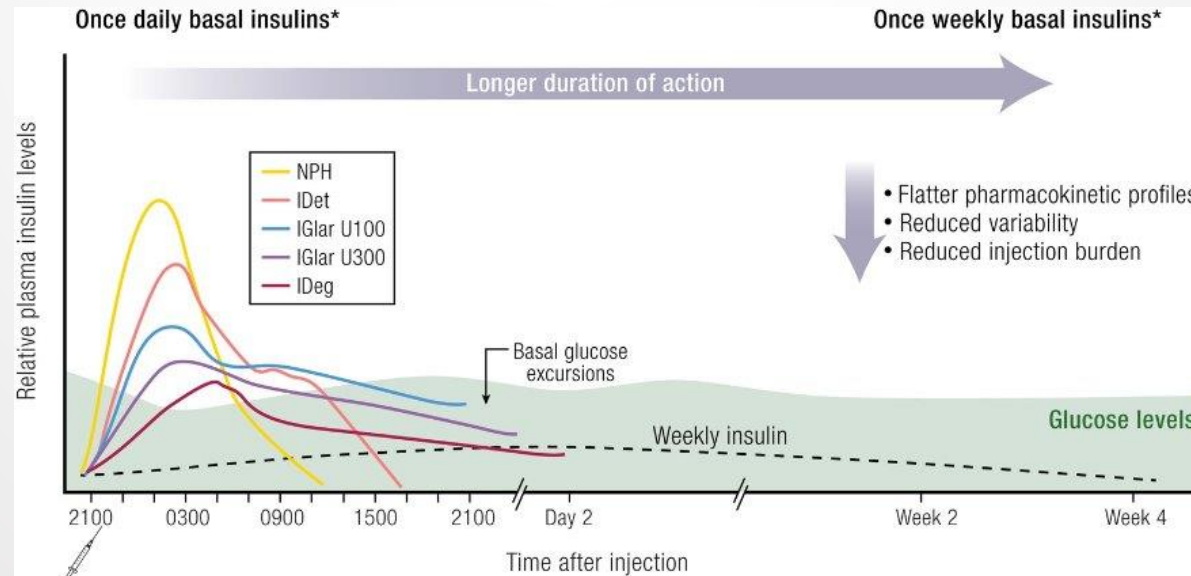
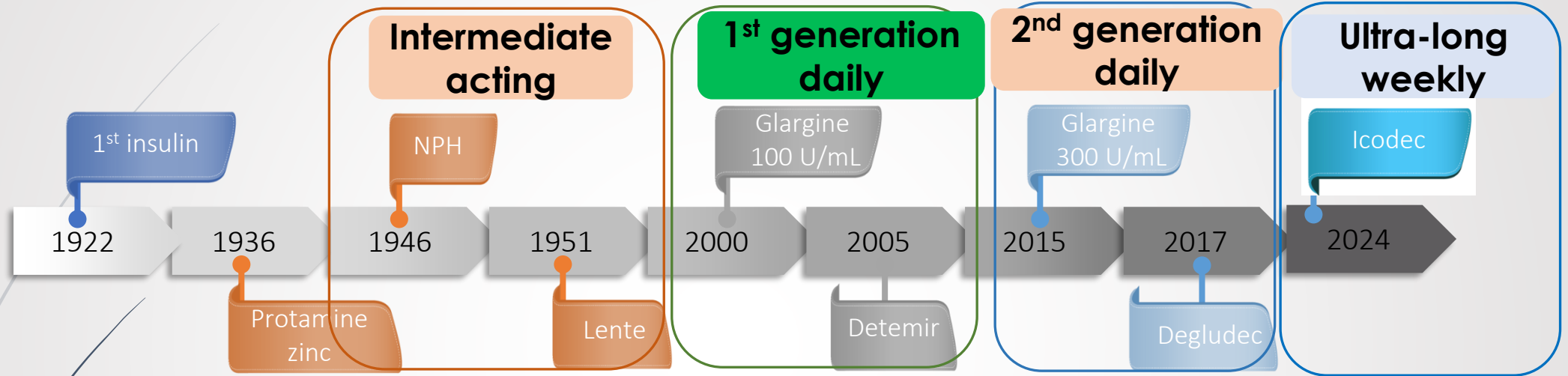
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cfp.ca/content/cfp/56/12/e418.full.pdf>

# Selecting the basal insulin

- All basal insulins are effective at reducing glucose levels
- The primary differences are:
  - Duration and peaks of action
  - Hypoglycemia risk
  - Glycemic variability



# Evolution of Basal Insulins



\*Schematic representation of single doses



# Potential Advantages of a Basal Insulin with Long Duration of Action

- ✓ Improve glycemic control
- ✓ Potentially overcome clinical inertia for insulin initiation
- ✓ Reduce patient/caregiver burden
- ✓ Improve adherence to an insulin regimen
- ✓ Improve patient satisfaction and quality of life

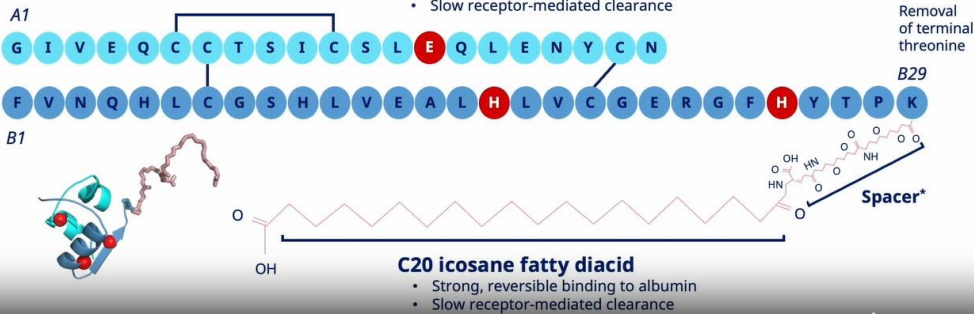


# Insulin Icodec MoA

Icodec is designed to achieve a long half-life by changes to the human insulin molecule

**Three amino acid substitutions**

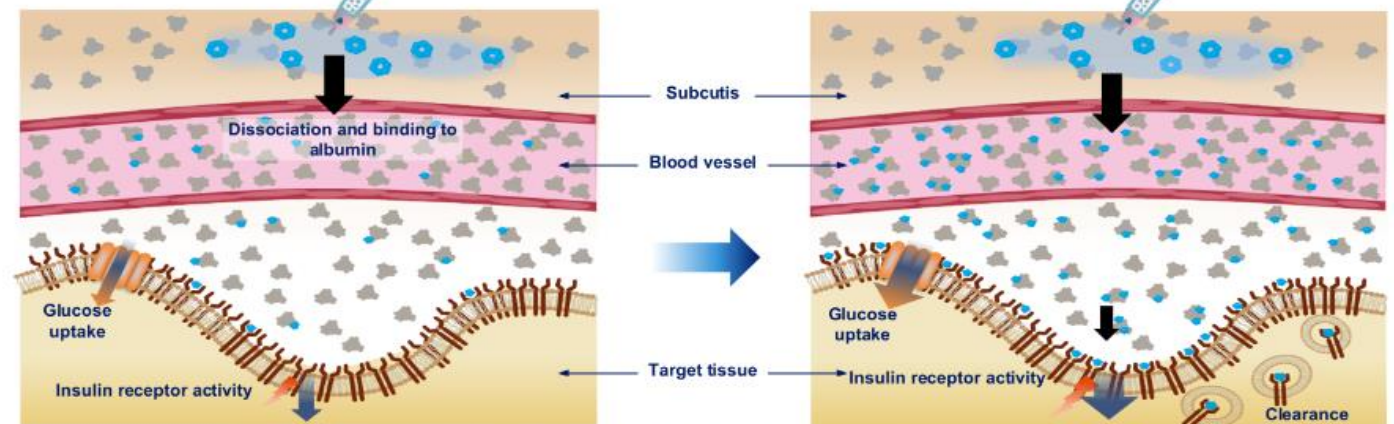
- Molecular stability
- Reduced enzymatic degradation
- Slow receptor-mediated clearance



## Release of active icodec from the inactive albumin-bound circulating depot leads to prolonged and stable action

First injection

Steady state (3–4 weeks after first injection)



Gradual, continuous release of active icodec enables once weekly dosing

*For illustrative purposes, the albumin to insulin icodec ratio and receptor occupancy have been considerably exaggerated. E.g., at steady state, ~2000:1 albumin:icodec molecules. MoA, mechanism of action.*

1. Nishimura E et al. *BMJ Open Diab Res Care* 2021;9:e002301.

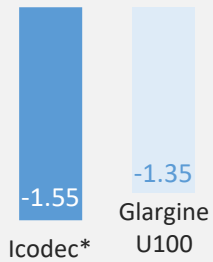
# ONWARDS Program: A1C Efficacy and Hypoglycemia in T2D

## Insulin-naïve type 2 diabetes

### ONWARDS 1 BASAL INITIATION

52<sup>#</sup>

8.5

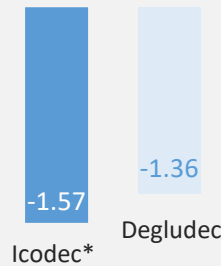


0.3  
Wk 0-52: ERR 1.64 (0.98-2.75);  
p=0.06

### ONWARDS 3 DOUBLE-BLIND, DOUBLE-DUMMY

26

8.5

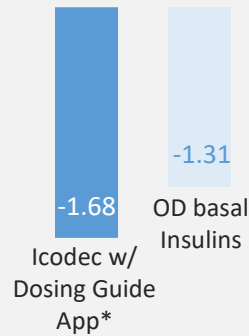


0.31  
Wk 0-31:ERR 1.82 (0.87-3.80);  
p=0.11

### ONWARDS 5 ICODEC + TITRATION APP

52

8.9



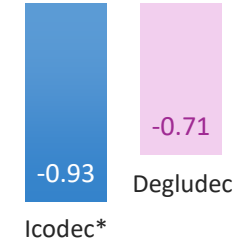
0.19  
Wk 0-57:ERR 1.17 (0.73-1.86);  
p=0.52

## Insulin-treated type 2 diabetes

### ONWARDS 2 BASAL SWITCH

26

8.1

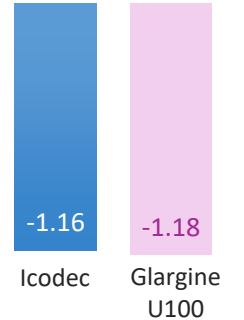


0.73  
Wk 0-31: ERR 1.93 (0.93-4.02);  
p=0.078

### ONWARDS 4 BASAL/BOLUS SWITCH

26

8.3



5.64  
Wk 0-31: ERR 0.99 (0.73-1.33);  
p=0.93

Trial duration (weeks)  
Baseline A1C (%)

A1C Non-inferiority confirmed  
A1C Superiority

Estimated change from  
Baseline in A1C (%)

Estimated rate of level 2  
or 3 hypoglycemia  
(event per PYE)

\*Primary results are presented. Note that the treatment arms in ONWARDS 1 are 78 weeks duration and entire study is 83 weeks;  
#Statistically significant superiority versus the comparator;  
p-values for HbA1c comparison represent p-value for superiority; Insulin degludec or insulin glargine U100/U300.  
Level 2: Clinically significant hypoglycemia (blood glucose <54 mg/dL (<3 mmol/L))  
Level 3: hypoglycemia with severe cognitive impairment requiring external assistance for recovery  
Level 1: blood glucose ≥ 54 to <70 mg/dL (23.0 to <3.9 mmol/L)

PYE, patient-year of exposure  
ERR, estimated rate ratio; ETD, estimated treatment difference

Adapted from: Bajaj H, Goldenberg R. touchREVIEWS in Endocrinology. 2023;19(1):4-6.  
ONWARDS 1: Rosenstock J et al. N Engl J Med 2023; doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2303208  
ONWARDS 3: Lingvay I et al. JAMA 2023; JAMA. doi: 10.1001/jama.2023.11313  
ONWARDS 5: Bajaj H et al. Ann Intern Med 2023; doi:10.7326/M23-1288  
ONWARDS 2: Phillis-Tsimikas A, et al. Lancet Diab Endocrinol. 2023; ONWARDS 4: Mathieu C et al. Lancet. 2023.

# Initiating Basal Insulin – Four Considerations

1

## Choose the Basal Insulin

### Daily Insulins

- NPH
- Glargine U100
- Detemir
- Degludec
- Glargine U-300

### Weekly Insulins

- Icodec

2

## Choose Starting Dose

### Daily Insulins

- 10 units daily
- Can be lower in older and lean adults

### Weekly Insulins

- 70 units weekly

3

## Titration based on Fasting Glucose

### Daily insulin

- 1 unit daily
- Degludec 2 units Q3-4 days or 4U once a week
- Until FPG 4.0-7.0 mmol/L

### Weekly insulin

- 20 units weekly
- Until FPG 4.4-7.2 mmol/L

4

## Monitoring for Efficacy and Safety

### CBG:

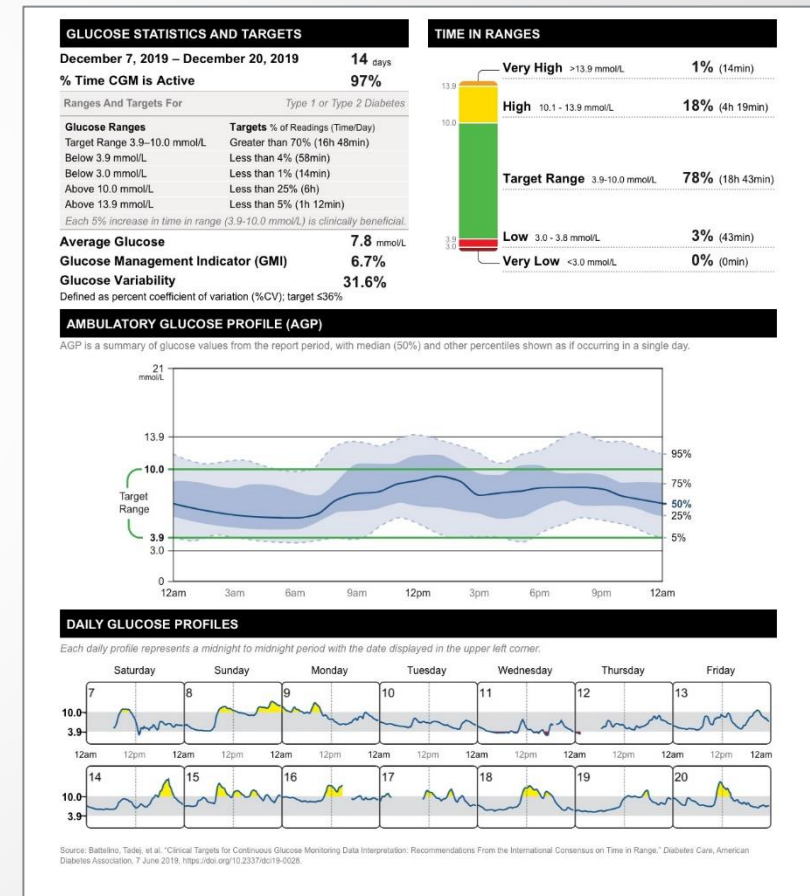
- $\geq 1$  time per day as fasting
- Testing for hypoglycemia

### CGM

- Can monitor fasting and safety

# Key Benefits for Interstitial Fluid Monitoring

1. Captures a 24-hour picture of glycemic control to identify trends
2. Assesses glycemic variability
3. Time in range (TIR)
4. Ambulatory glucose profile (AGP)
5. Making clinical decisions with the patient
6. Lowers A1C and risk of hypoglycemia compared to SMBG technology



# CHOOSE AN INSULIN TYPE

tion  
column.

Prescribe  
Address:  
Tel:

# CHOOSE A BRAND

Patient's Name:  
Address:  
Tel:

# DOSING

SEE REVERSE FOR TIPS



STEP 1: Choose Insulin Type				STEP 2: Dosing & Titration	
<b>BASAL Long-acting analogues</b> (Clear)	<input type="checkbox"/> Basaglar™ <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Kwikpen® (prefilled)	<input type="checkbox"/> Levemir® <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> FlexTouch® (prefilled) <input type="checkbox"/> Tresiba® <input type="checkbox"/> FlexTouch® 100 U/mL (prefilled) <input type="checkbox"/> FlexTouch® 200 U/mL (prefilled)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lantus® <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial <input type="checkbox"/> SoloSTAR® (prefilled) <input type="checkbox"/> Toujeo® <input type="checkbox"/> SoloSTAR® (prefilled) <input type="checkbox"/> DoubleSTAR® (prefilled)	<input type="checkbox"/> Semglee® <input type="checkbox"/> prefilled pen	<b>Starting dose:</b> _____ units at _____  Increase dose by _____ units every _____ until fasting blood glucose has reached the patient's individual target of _____ mmol/L.
<b>Intermediate-acting</b> (Cloudy)	<input type="checkbox"/> Humulin® N <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial <input type="checkbox"/> Kwikpen® (prefilled)	<input type="checkbox"/> Novolin® ge NPH <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial			
<b>PRANDIAL (BOLUS) Rapid-acting analogues</b> (Clear)	<input type="checkbox"/> Humalog® <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial <input type="checkbox"/> Kwikpen® (prefilled) <input type="checkbox"/> Humalog® 200 units/mL <input type="checkbox"/> Kwikpen® (prefilled)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiasp® <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial <input type="checkbox"/> FlexTouch® (prefilled) <input type="checkbox"/> NovoRapid® <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial <input type="checkbox"/> FlexTouch® (prefilled)	<input type="checkbox"/> Apidra® <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial <input type="checkbox"/> SoloSTAR® (prefilled) <input type="checkbox"/> Admelog™ <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial <input type="checkbox"/> SoloSTAR® (prefilled) <input type="checkbox"/> Trurapi™ <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> SoloSTAR® (prefilled)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kirsty™ <input type="checkbox"/> prefilled pen	<b>Starting dose:</b> _____ units ac breakfast _____ units ac lunch _____ units ac supper
<b>Short-acting</b> (Clear) Give 30 minutes before meal.	<input type="checkbox"/> Humulin® R <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial	<input type="checkbox"/> Novolin® ge Toronto <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Vial			
<b>PREMIXED Premixed analogues</b> (Cloudy)	<input type="checkbox"/> Humalog® Mix25™ <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Kwikpen® (prefilled) <input type="checkbox"/> Humalog® Mix50™ <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> Kwikpen® (prefilled)	<input type="checkbox"/> NovoMix® 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Cartridge			<b>Starting doses:</b> _____ units ac breakfast _____ units ac supper  Increase breakfast dose by _____ units every day until pre-supper blood glucose has reached the target of _____ mmol/L. Increase pre-supper dose by _____ units every day until fasting blood glucose has reached the target of _____ mmol/L.  Beware of hypoglycemia post-breakfast or post-supper. Stop increasing dose if hypoglycemia occurs.
<b>PEN DEVICE</b> Required if insulin cartridges selected.	<input type="checkbox"/> HumaPen® Savvio™ <input type="checkbox"/> HumaPen LUXURA® HD	<input type="checkbox"/> NovoPen® 4 <input type="checkbox"/> NovoPen Echo® <input type="checkbox"/> NovoPen® 5	<input type="checkbox"/> AIISTAR™		
<b>OTHER SUPPLIES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pen needles (if using a pen): <input type="checkbox"/> 4mm <input type="checkbox"/> 5mm <input type="checkbox"/> 6mm <input type="checkbox"/> 8mm <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> At discretion of pharmacist <input type="checkbox"/> Glucose test strips <input type="checkbox"/> Lancets <input type="checkbox"/> Insulin Syringe (if using vials) <input type="checkbox"/> Ketone Strips <input type="checkbox"/> Glucagon <input type="checkbox"/> Nasal Glucagon				
<b>QUANTITY and REPEATS</b>	<b>Insulin</b> Mitte: _____ boxes Repeats x _____		<b>Supplies</b> Mitte: _____ boxes Repeats x _____		

SELECT PEN DEVICE

CHECK OFF SUPPLIES

QUANTITY & REPEATS

- o Can act as a prescription
- o The second page has initiation and titration schedule

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ License #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Proper Injection Techniques and Habits



- **The Forum for Injection Technique (FIT)**

- Recommendations on injection technique
- Also contains patient material and handouts you can use in practice to educate patients
- Pharmacists and CDEs can support training

- ✓ Consistently administer into the subcutaneous space
- ✓ Avoid needle sticks
- ✓ Inject with correct technique
- ✓ Injection timing
- ✓ Use smallest needle size
- ✓ Rotate injection sites
- ✓ Do not reuse needles



FIT Forum  
for **Injection  
Technique**  
Canada

Recommendations  
for Best Practice in  
Injection Technique  
4th Edition 2020



Optimizing  
injection technique  
in diabetes

# Patient Education



## Drive Safe with Diabetes



**If you take insulin or pills that can drop your blood sugar below 4 mmol/L:**

**Prepare:** Keep fast-acting sugar where you can reach it while driving. Keep other snacks nearby.

**Be Aware** of your blood sugar level before driving. Do not start driving if below 4 and treat\*. For long drives, check your blood sugar every 4 hours.

**Stop** driving and treat\* if you don't feel well.

**After** treating\* a low, **Wait** until your blood sugar is above 5 to start driving. Your brain might need up to 40 minutes to recover after you have treated a low before you can safely drive again.

**Tell** your health-care provider if someone else had to help you with a low blood sugar.

**Fast-acting sugar that I will keep in my car close to the driver's seat:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Snacks that I will keep nearby when I am driving:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\*See the back for how to treat a low blood sugar.

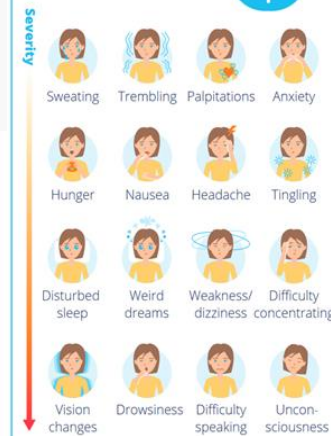


## Hypoglycemia low blood sugar in adults

### What are the signs?

Each person will have their own way of recognizing low blood sugar.

Some of the signs include:



### How to take action

#### EAT fast-acting sugar



#### WAIT 15 minutes and CHECK



### Why does low blood sugar happen?

**Have you:**

- Eaten less than planned?
- Eaten later than normal?
- Taken more medication than planned?
- Been more active than planned?
- Drunk any alcohol within the past 24 hours?

**Fear of "lows" is common and normal. If you are having lows, speak with your diabetes team:**

- Doctor • Nurse practitioner • Pharmacist
- Nurse • Dietitian

**Are you Driving?**

**After** treating a low, **Wait** until your blood sugar is above 5 mmol/L to start driving. Your brain might need up to 40 minutes to recover before you can safely drive again.

diabetes.ca  
1-800-BANTING (226-8464) | info@diabetes.ca

DIABETES CANADA

03/18 112025

<https://diabetes.ca/DiabetesCanadaWebsite/media/Managing-My-Diabetes/Tools%20and%20Resources/drive-safe-with-diabetes.pdf?ext=.pdf>

<https://www.diabetes.ca/DiabetesCanadaWebsite/media/Managing-My-Diabetes/Tools%20and%20Resources/hypoglycemia-low-blood-sugar-in-adults.pdf?ext=.pdf>



# Take home messages

- ▶ Treat early to achieve target.
- ▶ Recognizing the shift to selecting pharmacotherapies that have proven organ protection and not just glucose lowering
- ▶ Considering combination drugs to decrease pill burden
- ▶ Basal insulin is an effective therapy for patients with type 2 DM. Key considerations are
  - ▶ longer duration of action,
  - ▶ lower hypoglycemia and
  - ▶ lower variability.

Second generation basal insulin ( and Icodec) are preferred over NPH and first generation basal analogues
- ▶ Consider use of technology such CGM for optimizing patient care and promoting patient self management



# QUESTIONS



# EMR searches for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Immunizations

EMR searches have been developed by eHealth Centre of Excellence. in partnership with Ontario Health, to help primary care clinicians more efficiently identify patients who would benefit from RSV immunizations.



## TELUS PS Suite:

1. Download the package: [Click here](#)
2. Unzip the .zip file to your Desktop
3. Import the search file (.stx file) into PS Suite



## Accuro QHR:

1. **Search name:** ECE RSV Searches V1
2. **Author:** eHealth Centre of Excellence
3. **Date:** October 8, 2024



## OSCAR Pro:

1. Download the package: [Click here](#)
2. Import the search file (.xml file) into OSCAR Pro

# OCFP supports for Mental Health, Addictions and Chronic Pain

Mental health, addictions and chronic pain are challenging conditions. Find information to support the care you give patients – in a way that also considers your wellbeing.

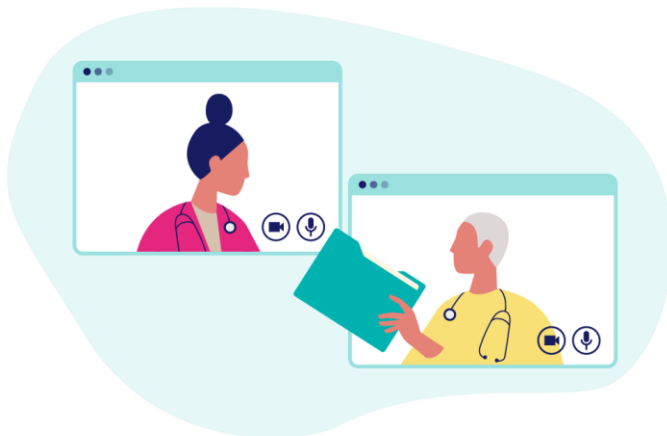


## Community of Practice

Join upcoming sessions:

Approaches to caring for children's mental health  
(November 27th )

Strategies to help family doctors transition from practice  
(December 11<sup>th</sup>)



## Peer Connect Mentorship

Receive tailored support to skillfully respond to mental health issues, address substance use disorders, and chronic pain challenges in your practice.

Join



**NEW!**

# Osteoporosis and Fracture Prevention Workshop



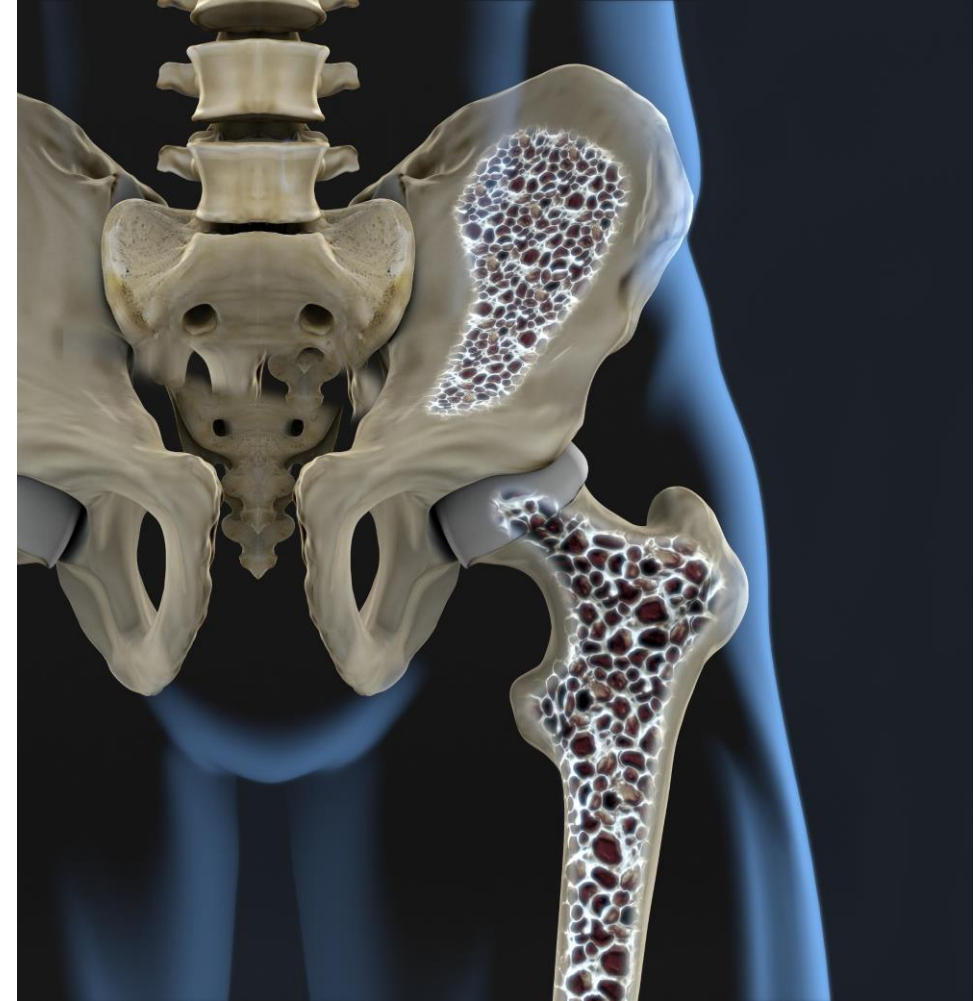
Scan to learn more

December 4, 2024  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

[Registration now open](#)

\$195 + HST

This is a three-credit-per-hour Mainpro+ certified program



# RECENT SESSIONS

June 21	<b>Infectious Disease Updates, Managing Alcohol Use &amp; Practical Tips for a Restful Summer</b>	Dr. Daniel Warshafsky Dr. Jennifer Wyman Dr. Joan Chan
July 26	<b>Infectious Disease: Circulating Seasonal Illnesses &amp; Important Vaccine Updates</b>	Dr. Daniel Warshafsky Dr. Zain Chagla
September 6	<b>Preparing for Fall &amp; Practice Management</b>	Dr. Daniel Warshafsky Dr. Darrell Tan Dr. Chase McMurren
September 20	<b>Managing Respiratory Illness in Kids &amp; COPD</b>	Dr. Ronald Grossman Dr. Tasha Stoltz
October 18	<b>Infectious Disease &amp; OBSP Updates</b>	Dr. Allison McGeer Dr. Jonathan Isenberg

**Previous webinars & related resources:**

**<https://www.dfcm.utoronto.ca/covid-19-community-practice/past-sessions>**

# UPCOMING SESSIONS

Month	Date
December 2024	December 6
January 2025	January 17
February 2025	February 7 February 21

## SAVE THE DATE

Registration link will be emailed to you closer to the date



Family & Community Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Ontario College of  
Family Physicians

*Leaders for a healthy Ontario*



# Questions?

Webinar recording and curated Q&A will be posted soon

<https://www.dfcu.utoronto.ca/covid-19-community-practice/past-sessions>

Our next Community of Practice: Dec 6, 2024

Contact us: [ocfpcme@ocfp.on.ca](mailto:ocfpcme@ocfp.on.ca)

Visit: <https://www.ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/tools-resources/covid-19-resources>

The COVID-19 Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians is a one-credit-per-hour Group Learning program that has been certified for up to a total of 32 credits..

**Post session survey will be emailed to you. Mainpro+ credits will be entered for you with the information you provided during registration.**

**Please note access to the Cert+ platform will be temporarily unavailable starting November 13, 2024 due to changes to the Mainpro+ program and Cert+ platform. We will be unable to submit credits on your behalf until after December 16. Similarly, you will be unable to submit your credits manually until after this date.**