

What is HOMR?

HOMR stands for *Hospital One-Year Mortality Risk*. HOMR is an algorithm that uses data routinely collected by hospitals to accurately, and reliably calculate a patient's risk of dying within the next 12 months¹. This helps clinicians identify patients with potential unmet palliative needs and who might benefit from a palliative approach to care².

How will the HOMR tool help clinicians to identify and meet the needs of their patients?

Clinicians have numerous responsibilities competing for their attention. The HOMR tool helps clinicians to reliably identify patients with a shortened life expectancy and potential unmet palliative needs. Once identified, clinicians can consider administering palliative and end-of-life care interventions such as symptom management, goals of care discussions, deprescribing, or deintensification of treatment. Clinicians may provide these interventions themselves or may invite other members of the care team to address these needs.

This approach may be especially beneficial for patients with conditions that have more ambiguous trajectories towards death such as those with organ failure or frailty as we know that these patients are less likely to receive palliative care compared to patients with a more predictable terminal illness such as cancer.

How is the HOMR tool being implemented in the Guelph Wellington OHT?

The HOMR tool is being offered to Integrated Patient Care Teams (IPCTs) in GW OHT that are: (a) focusing on palliative care; or (b) have an interest and the capacity to provide the identified patients with wrap-around care. The first sites will be the East Wellington FHT and the Mount Forest FHT. Each participating site will evaluate the impact of the HOMR tool for both patients/caregivers and providers.

What Can You Expect?

Each participating site will be provided with a list of patients identified by the HOMR tool as being at an increased risk of dying within the next 12 months. This list will be validated by each participating site. Each IPCT will determine how to engage with identified patients to ensure that their palliative care needs are identified and met.

If you would like more information about the HOMR tool you can contact Emmi Perkins at Emmi.Perkins@GuelphWellingtonOHT.com or at 519-827-7358.

March 27, 2023.

¹ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31253736/>, accessed Friday, March 17, 2023; <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04171830>, accessed Friday, March 17, 2023.

² For more information about a palliative approach to care see: <https://www.hqontario.ca/evidence-to-improve-care/quality-standards/view-all-quality-standards/palliative-care>.