

# **HISTORY OF THE**

# **Canadian Task Force** on Preventive Health Care

**CANADA'S TRUSTED SOURCE FOR** EVIDENCE-BASED CLINICAL PREVENTION GUIDELINES

- Pioneered evidence-based methodology to evaluate preventive health care recommendations for clinical practice
- · Transformed approach to valuing objective research evidence over expert opinion
- Focuses on preventive health care
- Created standard 'Go to' reference tool ("The Red Brick") for Canadian primary care clinicians and residents
- Publishes clinical guidelines widely used in primary care on screening for cancer, infectious and chronic diseases
- Creates range of decision tools supporting decision making for clinicians and patients, with 40+ tools to date
- Influenced groups in other countries, such as the US, where its methodology is adopted and in use at the national level
- Internationally recognized for guideline rigor and usability

#### 1976 - 1979

Develops a methodology to weigh scientific evidence to recommend for or against health practices, with a focus on prevention in people without symptoms. A major shift to valuing evidence over expert opinion.

#### 1979-1994

Updates published on 19 more conditions, and 28 updates based on new evidence

### 1994

The landmark Canadian Guide to Clinical Preventive Health Care with recommendations published for 81 conditions. This 1009-page volume, known as "The Red Brick", becomes a standard reference tool for Canadian primary care clinicians and residents.

# 2005

Task Force disbanded

# 2011-present

To date, more than 20 guidelines published on screening for:

- breast, lung, prostate and other cancers
- hepatitis C
- lifestyle and chronic health conditions such as obesity and tobacco use
- Regularly published, updated and used by primary care clinicians across Canada
- √ Emphasis on shared decision-making between clinicians and patients
- 40+ tools created for clinicians, patients and trainees

#### 1976

Canadian Task Force on Periodic Health Examination (Task Force) established by Canada's 10 provincial Deputy

Ministers of Health.

Founding members include: Drs. David Sackett, pionneer of evidence-based medicine and lan McWhinney, a Canadian legend in family

medicine

#### 1979

Recommends replacing the "annual check-up" with age-specific "health protection packages" integrated into opportunistic patient medical visits.

#### 1980s

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) adopts the Task Force methodology.



# 1995

The French version of The Red Brick wins the prestigious Prix Prescrire, from the Paris-based journal Prescrire.



# 2009

The Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care is re-established by the Public Health Agency of Canada.



Guidelines published in CMAJ.

Protocols and systematic reviews published in Systematic Reviews.

# **New Initiatives:**

- Further engagement of patients and the public in guideline development.
- Outreach and partnerships
- Knowledge translation tools supporting clinical decisions (> 40 to date)



# **Members:**

- Family doctors
- Mental health professionals
- Experts in evaluating evidence
- Pediatricians
- Specialist physicians
  - Public health specialist

...and more!

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