

We hope the HAM-D7 will help sharpen the focus in the therapeutic environment and improve patient outcomes. We also hope that further research will continue to refine critical end points in depression and how best to measure them.

—*Roger S. McIntyre, MD, FRCPC
Head, Mood Disorders
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—Jakub Z. Konarski, MSc
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by email*

Competing Interests

Dr R.S. McIntyre is a consultant and speaker for Pfizer, Wyeth, Organon, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen-Ortho, Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca, Biovail, Oryx, Lundbeck, and Bristol-Myers Squibb. He has received research funding from Janssen-Ortho, Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca, Wyeth, Servier, Novartis, and Organon.

References

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- McIntyre R, Kennedy S, Bagby RM, Bakish D. Assessing full remission. *J Psychiatry Neurosci* 2002;27(4):235-9.
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New family practice residency program

We thought your readers involved in teaching family practice residents might be interested in learning of a new program we have instituted.

St Paul's Hospital is a tertiary care teaching hospital with family practice as a full-admitting service. We have designated beds where patients are admitted from emergency and managed by their family physicians and first-year family practice residents. We believe that, in tertiary care teaching hospitals, this is unique to the Ottawa program and our program.

The challenges of maintaining a family doctor presence in a tertiary care hospital are well known. In many tertiary care facilities many barriers exist for family physicians, not the least of which is the "culture." A relative shortage of general internal medicine services in our facility has resulted in an opportunity to highlight the profile and value of family medicine.

As of October, we have started a new family practice consultation service for inpatient psychiatry. Approximately 100 patients pass through the psychiatry inpatient beds each month. These patients often have medical problems that need addressing, and many do not have family physicians. Until now, the psychiatrists have consulted specialists for these problems. There were concerns, however, with timely access, follow up, and the need for many specialty consultations for one patient. We were asked to provide a regular consultation service to the inpatients. This consists of daily visits by a second-year family practice resident and a family physician to patients with problems. Problems range from liver disease, cellulitis and other dermatologic conditions, minor fractures, and infections, to arthritic conditions, diabetes, and gynecological problems. The program has so far met with great enthusiasm from the psychiatry department and the residents involved.

We intend to submit a program description with our evaluation data. In the meantime, if any other residency program wishes for additional information, they can contact us directly.

—*Dara Behroozi, MB BS, CCFP
—Garey Mazowita, MD, CCFP, FCFP
Vancouver, BC
by e-mail*

Family practice websites

The recent article by Dr Michelle Greiver, "Practice Tips: Website for your family practice"¹ provided an excellent overview of the topic.

Indeed, an increasing number of physicians are setting up websites for their practices, and they and their patients are finding them to be incredibly useful. For example, a website can free administrative staff from repeated requests and ensure that patients arrive prepared for their visits.

In order to assist physicians, the Canadian Medical Association recently unveiled a service (available to all Canadian physicians in English at www.mydoctor.ca and in French at www.monmedecin.ca) that allows them to create a basic website in less than 30 minutes. It aims to facilitate and lessen the costs associated with the process of setting up and maintaining a website, and consequently frees up more time for direct patient care and personal leisure.

—Albert J. Schumacher, MD
President, Canadian Medical Association
Ottawa, Ont
by e-mail

Reference

- Greiver M. Website for your family practice [Practice Tips]. *Can Fam Physician* 2004;50:1367-8.

Response

I wish to thank Dr Schumacher for his comments. I tried the www.mydoctor.ca site, and found it easy to use. In the Practice Tip,¹ I briefly discussed managed hosting; the Canadian Medical Association's service would fit this category, as they offer help writing and publishing medical websites, and will then host them on their server. Physicians

can choose content from templates and add pre-approved links to health information. Because the website is written on-line, there is no need for software to upload files from a computer's local hard drive. The fee per year is \$120 for Canadian Medical Association members, and \$240 for non-members (after 6 months of free hosting).

This is a good option for physicians who do not wish to write or publish websites on their own. Regardless of the method chosen, I hope to see more of my colleagues using this valuable practice tool.

—Michelle Greiver, MD, CCFP
North York, Ont
by e-mail

Reference

- Greiver M. Website for your family practice [Practice Tips]. *Can Fam Physician* 2004;50:1367-8.

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