Costs of Cardiac Care: Patient Burden and Rehabilitation Delivery

**Introduction:** In Canada, CVD is the largest health-related economic cost, with major direct and indirect costs. This cost has increased over recent years and now amounts to CAD$22 billion per year, with 3 of the top 4 most expensive health conditions in Canada being CVD. While CVD mortality has been declining in Canada due to advances in acute treatment, there are many Canadians living chronically with CVD. The time and Out-of-Pocket (OOP) costs for cardiac patients to attend healthcare visits, have diagnostics tests and undergo recommended treatments are not well characterized. In addition, despite being very effective, CR is grossly under-utilized due to many barriers including the lack of financial resources (e.g. personnel and space). **Objective:** The aim of this research is to: (1) describe healthcare utilization and associated patient time and OOP cost over 1.5 years following CR and (2) describe the cost to deliver CR around the globe and how it is reimbursed. **Methods:** The first study will be a secondary analysis of a multisite trial. Participants recruited in the study will be followed for 1.5 years from graduation and will complete surveys at 26, 52 and 78-week time points, assessing time and OOP expenses for cardiac tests and treatments. The second study will be quantitative, observational, and cross-sectional in design. A confidential, online survey will be administered to CR programs globally to collect cost information. **Anticipated Results:** This study will characterize for the first time, the economic burden of CVD in cardiac patients managing their chronic disease in a publicly-funded healthcare system and drivers of those costs. It will also characterize, for the first time, who funds CR around the globe and the financial burden of CR participation on patients.