

Supporting urologists and primary care health providers to provide the best possible patient care: A focus on common pediatric problems

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As medicine and each of its specialties evolve, even in a field like urology, where subspecialization is becoming more commonplace, we seem to be learning more and more about less and less. In Canada, primary care providers and general urologists must provide the best care possible, especially in locales that are separated geographically from major urban and tertiary care referral centres. Modern communication certainly allows interactions to be increasingly provided with telemedicine and without the mandatory face-to-face clinic visit at a tertiary centre; this allows us to contain costs, but also keep families and patients closer to home.

In pediatric urology, is ancillary care — such as anesthesia and nursing — available in the community? Are new trainees trained and comfortable in providing routine care that is evidence-based and adherent to guidelines? These issues become an increasing challenge in an environment where our stakeholders, the patients, and our “bosses” (government, hospitals, universities) demand value (quality/cost)! Regardless of specialty or subspecialty, we must establish metrics that allow us to determine quality and allow for best and safest practices, wherever patients are cared for.

The majority of textbooks are out-of-date by the time they are published. Realizing this, the Canadian Urological Association (CUA) and its official journal, *Canadian Urological Association Journal (CUAJ)*, and editor-in-chief, Robert Siemens, have supported the publication of this supplement devoted solely to common problems in pediatric urology. We trust that these articles will be of interest (and

be used) not only by our CUA colleagues who have access to *CUAJ*, but it is also our anticipation that they can be shared with our colleagues in primary care. This supplement is a unique publication, in that we asked all authors to provide practical submissions, each written within the past six months, and accompanied by an expert commentary. The authors are to be commended for all complying with these instructions and the tight time frame in the face of their extraordinary competing time commitments and responsibilities. As such, we feel the content is up-to-date and relevant in comparison to a textbook. Pediatric Urologists of Canada (PUC) continue to update all CUA members with relevant guidelines to common pediatric problems as they are composed and/or revised and will be upcoming in future issues of *CUAJ*.

In particular, we wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to *CUAJ* managing editor, Adriana Modica, for her superb support in pushing us as editors to adhere to timelines and especially for her assistance and expertise in editing these manuscripts. Enjoy!

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