



FOR RELEASE

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Successful Health Care Innovation meeting for Yukon premier and health minister

WHITEHORSE—Premier Darrell Pasloski and Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham have returned from a successful meeting of the Health Care Innovation Working Group.

The working group, led by three premiers and all of the provincial and territorial ministers of health, was set up in 2012 by Canada's premiers to drive health system transformation and innovation in health care.

Pasloski is one of the three co-chairs, along with the premiers of Ontario and Alberta. "As stewards of Canada's health care systems, provinces and territories are leading the way to achieve better patient outcomes and manage resources wisely," Pasloski said.

Appropriateness in health care provision and seniors' care were topics covered in the meeting. Pharmaceuticals were also discussed, specifically:

- achieving lower prices for brand name and generic drugs; and
- managing drugs for rare diseases.

The working group has already had great success in reducing costs of six commonly used generic drugs, resulting in approximately \$100 million in savings for publicly funded programs. Effective

April 1 the group added four more drugs to this list, bringing the expected annual cost savings to approximately \$150 million.

The group also endorsed the work of Choosing Wisely Canada, a physician-lead initiative to create guidelines for tests and procedures that often are overused, underused, or misused, and to help patients and physicians make smart and effective choices to ensure high-quality care.

"This is an example of the excellent work that is underway in Canada. I look forward to talking with the Yukon Medical Association about how some of these guidelines could be used to strengthen health care in Yukon," Graham said.

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