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Improving immunization rates in older adults using the CANImmunize digital application

Older adults living in long-term care homes and retirement residences are vulnerable to COVID-19, the flu, pneumonia, and other diseases. With the recent announcement of the COVID-19 vaccination, tracking is important for knowing who is protected and whether they need to be immunized with additional doses.

The [Healthy Seniors Pilot Project](#) has funded the [Centre for Innovation and Research in Aging \(CIRA\)](#), to utilize [CANImmunize](#), Canada's digital immunization tracking system, as a solution at [York Care Centre](#) in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Available on a mobile device or website, CANImmunize can help older adults, their families, and care providers easily keep track of and receive reminders for vaccinations. Family members and caregivers will have this information at their fingertips and can easily assist their loved-ones in keeping track of their vaccinations.

Problem:

- Older adults in long-term care homes and retirement residences need to be vaccinated against flu, shingles, pneumonia, and other viruses, including the virus causing COVID-19. Knowing which vaccines have been received and when a booster is needed can be challenging.
- Across Canada, many long-term care organizations also operate assisted and independent living facilities for older adults. Immunization tracking can be challenging for this population.

Solution:

- CANImmunize is an easy-to-use digital vaccine tracking system to help older adults, their families, and care homes easily keep track of vaccinations.
- With guidance from CIRA's research team, York Care Centre in Fredericton, New Brunswick, is piloting CANImmunize, Canada's digital immunization tracking system, to track vaccinations in assisted and independent living facilities.

"This project will enable family members and caregivers to know exactly which vaccines their loved one has received and when they need a second dose or booster, providing peace of mind," says Dr. Kumanan Wilson, a physician researcher at The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and the founder and CEO of CANImmunize. "We hope that this solution can be rolled out to track adult vaccinations in long-term care and retirement homes across Canada."

"Our research and long-term care organizations share a common goal to be innovative, embrace new ideas, and foster partnerships that lead to improved quality of life for all

older adults,” says Tony Weeks, President & CEO of York Care Centre. “We are thrilled to partner with CANImmunize on this research project, and thankful to the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Government of New Brunswick for their support”, says Tony.

The Healthy Senior’s Pilot Project, in partnership with the Government of New Brunswick’s Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat, is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. With their support, research is being conducted at CIRA to assess the use of CANImmunize in long-term care and assisted living facilities with the goal of implementing CANImmunize in these facilities across Canada.

About York Care Centre & CIRA

York Care Centre is the largest long-term care facility in New Brunswick and is located in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The Centre for Innovation and Research in Aging is Atlantic Canada's only research organization housed within a long-term care facility. Since 2018, CIRA has done research with older adults in York Care Centre and the community on a variety of topics including virtual reality, emotional and physical well-being, and medication management. CIRA is proud to have been selected for a total of 5 projects from the Healthy Seniors Pilot Project (This is HSPP Project # C0044).

About CANImmunize

CANImmunize is a technology company specializing in immunization software. It developed the CANImmunize platform, a pan-Canadian digital immunization tracking system that helps Canadians keep track of their vaccinations with a mobile app and web portal. Their Clinic Flow allows hospitals, seniors’ residences, and health care organizations to seamlessly run digital vaccination clinics. The team offers digital solutions to businesses, health care organizations and governments for vaccinations and tracking, and is preparing for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

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