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President

NLMA set to unveil Virtual Care Strategy

Dear Colleagues:

The practice of medicine is changing rapidly. As life expectancy and the occurrence of complex chronic disease continues to increase, new and innovative ways of meeting future demands are needed. We believe that virtual care technologies such as telemedicine, remote patient monitoring systems and linkages to electronic records and artificial intelligence, will emerge out of necessity to address these and other challenges within our health care system.

At the same time, we know that increased use of virtual care technologies will bring many challenges for physicians and health system policy makers. Unless we set the agenda, others will define the rules of the game for us as our health care system begins to grapple with the disruption brought on by technological innovation.

The NLMA is currently developing a strategy for virtual care that we will use to influence policy and practice in this province, from a physician perspective. The purpose of this strategy will be to enable the Association, on behalf of physicians in the province, to influence and shape the introduction and expansion of virtual care services. Changes will be needed in public policy, payment systems, continuing medical education, and other areas. We want the collective physician voice to provide practical and visionary guidance so that the changes work well for physicians and their patients.

We will unveil our Virtual Care Strategy on June 1st as part of a Virtual Care Summit that will take place on the same day as our AGM. National and local speakers will provide a broad overview of virtual care and how it could affect your practice in the near future. All NLMA members are invited to attend this free event. In addition to physicians, we are inviting other key stakeholders in the health system to attend the summit. Regular AGM business will be conducted in a separate session on the same day.

[To see the agenda or to register for the Virtual Care Summit, AGM or President's Dinner, please click here.](#)

Over the next two months we will be surveying the membership, hosting several focus groups and conducting key informant interviews. There will also be an online forum where any physician can make a contribution to the strategy. Your feedback and opinions will directly inform our strategy development process.

The Board of Directors and the Board Committee on Health Information have engaged Deloitte to help us construct this strategy. You may have already seen the invitation to complete our online Virtual Care Survey, which Deloitte is conducting on behalf of the NLMA. The survey can be completed and in about 10 minutes and those who participate may enter their names in one of two draws for an apple watch or another smart watch of equal value. We deeply value your input and kindly ask for your participation. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

Sincerely,



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