

## CALL FOR PATIENT PARTICIPATION FROM HEALTH QUALITY ONTARIO

# BE PART OF A HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT ON STROKE PREVENTION AND DECISION-MAKING

### **WHO IS HEALTH QUALITY ONTARIO?**

Health Quality Ontario (HQO) is a provincial agency dedicated to ensuring our health care system delivers a better experience of care and better outcomes for Ontarians at better value for money. Part of this role includes evaluating the effectiveness of health care technologies and services through formal **health technology assessments (HTAs)**.

### **WHAT IS THIS HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT?**

HQO is currently reviewing a left atrial appendage closure device known as **Watchman**, which is used in **patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation**. This technology could potentially reduce the risk of stroke while also decreasing the risk of bleeding problems from oral anticoagulants use as well as the need for drug compliance.

### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO US TO HEAR FROM PATIENTS?**

We are looking to speak to patients who have been diagnosed with atrial fibrillation who may or may not be taking anticoagulants to reduce their risk of stroke. Our goal is to illuminate the lived-experience of patients with atrial fibrillation, their existing treatment options, including the Watchman device or not, and the context around their treatment decisions.

### **WHY GET INVOLVED?**

This HTA will result in a recommendation to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care surrounding the public funding of Watchman. A key component of all HTAs are the views, values, and lived-experiences of patients and the context around the medical condition in question.

### WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

- 15-30 minutes of your time for a phone or in-person interview
- Willingness to share your story
- Permission to audio (not video) record the interview

We are hoping to conduct interviews now through the end of 2016. If you are interested in sharing your story or have any questions about this opportunity, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at HQO:

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