Catalysing change: Perspectives of health system leaders on improving health system efficiency

To explore mechanisms to improve health system efficiency identified by health system leaders in two Canadian provinces. This project builds on previous CIHI work by 'unpacking' factors explaining variations in health system efficiency. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 42 provincial and regional senior decision makers in BC and NS. Participants identified key actions related to leadership and governance that were thought to increase efficiency, including improving coordination within the health sector through policy and targeted funding and developing partnerships outside the health sector. Specific mechanisms included a) performance monitoring to increase accountability, b) strengthening primary care by engaging physicians and incentivizing inter-disciplinary practice, and c) consolidating and reorganizing governance structures. These findings provide some direction to system leaders aiming to improve efficiency.