



September 11, 2012

To the Editor: *The Globe and Mail*

**RE: “We all pay when health care focuses on volume, not quality” by André Picard, September 10, 2012, *The Globe and Mail***

Picard’s commentary does more than highlight what’s not working in the American health-care system. It urges us to consider inefficiencies in Canada’s medicare system and reinforces the Council of the Federation’s recent call for standardized clinical practice care guidelines to be adopted across the country.

National guidelines would ensure patients are receiving consistent, up-to-date treatment no matter where they are. Take, for example, the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario guidelines for the *Assessment and Management of Foot Ulcers for People with Diabetes*. These spell out *how* RNs should clean the wound, change the dressing, and so on. The Council of the Federation strongly recommends adopting these guidelines across Canada. Why? Because it will improve the quality of life for people with diabetes.

Having clinical practice guidelines for this and other types of care also means less duplication of efforts from health-care providers — ultimately contributing to a cost-effective, healthier health-care system.

Sincerely,

Barb Mildon, RN, PhD, CHE, CCHN(C)  
President, Canadian Nurses Association