Osteoporosis Canada (OC), a registered charity, is the only national organization serving people who have, or are at risk for, osteoporosis. OC works to educate, empower and support individuals and communities in the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis.

BACKGROUND:

Osteoporosis is a disease characterized by low bone mass and deterioration of bone tissue. This can cause the skeleton to become fragile, so that even a slight bump or fall, from standing height or less, can lead to a broken bone (referred to as a fragility fracture). Osteoporosis has no signs or symptoms until a fracture occurs – this is why it is often called a ‘silent disease’.

Osteoporosis itself is not painful but the broken bones can result in severe pain, significant disability and even mortality. Both hip and spine fractures are also associated with a higher risk of death. Twenty-eight per cent of women and 37% of men who suffer a hip fracture will die within the year following the fracture.

In Canada, 30,000 Canadians break their hip every year with many more Canadians suffering from osteoporotic fractures affecting the spine, wrist, shoulder, and pelvis. **Over 80% of all fractures after age 50 are caused by osteoporosis.** Despite availability of assessment and treatment options, over 80% of fracture patients are never offered assessment and/or treatment for osteoporosis post fracture. **Without appropriate diagnosis and treatment, these patients remain at substantial risk for recurrent, debilitating and life threatening osteoporotic fractures.**

As the population is aging, it is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in the number of fragility fractures, particularly hip fractures, in the coming years. These fractures will affect many more individuals and their families and will have a significant impact on costs to the health care system.

In February 2005, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced Ontario’s first **Osteoporosis Strategy.** The goal of the Strategy is to reduce morbidity, mortality and costs from osteoporotic fractures using a patient centred, inter-disciplinary approach that is integrated across health care sectors and aims to reduce osteoporotic hip fractures in Ontario by 20% by 2020.

The integration of post fracture care is a key component to achieving this goal. The Fracture Clinic Screening Program (FCSP) was initiated in 2007. Osteoporosis Screening Coordinators (OSCs), as part of the Ontario Osteoporosis Strategy at Osteoporosis Canada, work within the FCSP to identify and screen men and women aged 50 or older who have sustained a fragility fracture and facilitate appropriate treatment and care in order to reduce the risk of a future fracture.
JOB SUMMARY:

The role of the OSC, in an effort to prevent subsequent fractures, including hip fractures, is to identify and screen patients aged 50 or older who have sustained a fragility fracture.

The OSC will screen fragility fracture patients within the fracture clinic environment to provide, as appropriate, information, education and referrals in addition to support to connect these patients with primary care providers and community-based services. The OSC will also work with orthopaedic surgeons, allied health professionals, fracture clinic staff and primary care providers to help improve patient access to integrated post-fracture care for osteoporosis investigation and management. The OSC is expected to inform patients of the need to follow up with their primary care provider and/or osteoporosis specialist after a fracture, for assessment and/or treatment to reduce the risk of future fracture.

Reports to: Regional Integration Lead (RIL), Ontario Osteoporosis Strategy, Osteoporosis Canada.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) or Registered Nurse (RN)

Attributes:
Computer proficiency, including Microsoft Office, a must. Excellent oral and written communication skills; ability to work independently, with initiative and limited supervision; excellent time management skills; ability to work as part of a diverse team and the ability to demonstrate sensitivity to the needs of patients are required. Knowledge of and/or experience with Electronic Medical Records (EMR) preferred. Fluency in second language an asset.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Diligent use of protocol tools to identify and screen fragility fracture patients aged 50 or older, collect patient data and provide patients with appropriate referrals, information and resources.
- Responsible for ensuring patient privacy, privacy and security of data and the database, as per privacy and security policies.
- Facilitate diagnostic testing (BMD etc.) for identified patients, as appropriate.
- Ensure appropriate follow up by a primary care physician or specialist, as required.
- Discuss with patients and/or caregivers the significance of bone health, risk factors for fractures, osteoporosis, falls and management of osteoporosis, as appropriate.
- Communicate with the patients’ family physicians to inform them about their patients’ osteoporosis and/or fracture risk; outline appropriate recommendations.
- Refer/link patients to self-management, falls prevention and/or education programs, as appropriate.
- Provide ‘orphan’ patients with a resource to link to a primary care provider.
- Follow up with identified patients between 3 and 7 months post baseline screening.
- Provide regular program updates to internal and external stakeholders as needed.
- Assist their RIL in providing ongoing support and education to hospital, community and primary health care staff.
- Identify opportunities for program growth, development and outreach.
- Attend and engage in Regional and Provincial team meetings.
- Other duties as assigned.
**AREA OF WORK**

Placement within hospital based fracture clinics at Halton HealthCare Services, Oakville Site. Some travel will be required.

Submit resume and cover letter by February 6, 2015 to:

oosrecruiting@osteoporosis.ca

Please ensure subject line of your email starts with “HHC Oakville”

No calls please. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.