

## Prescription Drug Benefits and Return to Work: What is the Story?



**Dr. Carolyn Dewa**

Dr. Carolyn Dewa holds a PhD in health economics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health and a MPH in health services administration from San Diego State University School of Public Health. She was a fellow at the Harvard Medical School Department of Health Care Policy. She currently heads the Work and Well-being Research and Evaluation Program and is a Senior Scientist/Health Economist in the Health Systems Research and Consulting Unit (HSRCU) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. She is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. Since joining the HSRCU in 1998, she has developed a program of research on two major themes: (1) workplace disability associated with mental illness and (2) the provision of mental health services and supports to individuals with severe mental illness. Her awards have included an Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Career Scientist Award. She currently holds a Canadian Institutes of Health Research/Public Health Agency of Canada Applied Public Health Chair.

*a free public lecture by Dr. Carolyn Dewa*

Workers experiencing depression may face economic barriers to accessing appropriate treatment. In this presentation Dr. Dewa examines the relationship between prescription drug benefits and the return to work of employees receiving short-term disability benefits. She discusses the evidence supporting early intervention and reviews the impact of recommended treatment guidelines for depression. Dr. Dewa also shares her research on an experimental model of disability management for mental illness that can potentially lead to cost savings in disability payments.

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*The Stephen E. Lett Lecture Series brings together leaders in the academic, clinical, and business fields to discuss the links between social change and human health.*

**Thursday, August 13, 2009**

**Lunch 11:30 a.m. (Provided by Homewood)  
Presentation 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.**

**Homewood Lecture Theatre,  
150 Delhi Street, Guelph**

**Please RSVP by Monday, August 10, 2009,  
to (519) 824-1010, ext. 2580**

**This event is an accredited group learning activity as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Canada. Twenty-five percent of the time for these rounds will be devoted to interactive learning.**

**Educational Objectives:**

- (1) describe the prevalence of short-term disability related to mental illness
- (2) describe the characteristics of workers who receive short-term disability benefits for depression
- (3) discuss the role of early intervention to return to work
- (4) identify barriers to treatment
- (5) describe a promising intervention