



Domains and Rationale

Domain	Rationale
<i>Independent living: Supports and barriers</i>	Maintaining a sense of self-autonomy or independence is a basic human right. Determining which services/programs or other characteristics best support independent living (i.e., in the community) is key to improving the well-being of those with mental health challenges.
<i>Employment</i>	Employment is an area of priority for the Ministry. Supporting people's independence and self-reliance through assistance with their gaining and maintaining meaningful employment is an important issue.
<i>Early identification and prevention: Protective and risk factors</i>	Some individuals show early signs/symptoms (e.g., behavioral, neurological) of mental illness; can efforts be made to decrease the impact or severity of mental illness by being receptive to early signs? Incidence rates of mental illness can be reduced by decreasing risk factors and increasing protective ones. Some risk factors (e.g., gender, age) are not modifiable.
<i>Poly-pharmacy</i>	A large proportion of the Ministry's budget is spent on medications for seniors and persons with disabilities. Many individuals with mental illness are prescribed multiple medications to treat different conditions/ diagnoses. Adherence to and reimbursement and over/under use of medications represent some of the challenges for this population. Non-adherence may lead to relapse or other medical conditions.
<i>Strength-based approaches</i>	The system of care should move from a deficit or disability-based approach to a strength-based approach, where people are viewed as full citizens. Finding ways to build upon individuals' skills, and focus on their abilities is important for enhancing self-esteem and well being. Volunteerism is one way in which the strengths of individuals can be used to positively impact both the individual and the community at large.
<i>System capability to respond to those with complex needs</i>	The range of mental health issues that individuals, supported by the Ministry, present with is large and complex; managing this complexity represents a significant challenge.