Supervisor Name:  
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Project Title:  
The ED management of alcohol use disorder

Hospital/Research Institution:  
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Field of Research (2 keywords):  
Emergency Medicine
Alcohol use disorder

Department:  
Emergency Medicine

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? Yes/No:  
NO

If YES, please name:
**Brief Project Description (<300 words):**

With over 78% of North Americans over age 15 consuming ethyl alcohol (alcohol) within the last year, alcohol is the most commonly used mind-altering substance by a large margin. Every day, 249/100,000 Canadians are admitted to hospital due to harms caused exclusively by alcohol (more than the number admitted for heart attacks, and 13 times more common than admission for opioids). Not surprisingly, patients with alcohol related harm are frequent users of ED services. An emergency department (ED) visit is an excellent opportunity to intervene for patients with alcohol use disorder (AUD). Expert consensus recommends pharmacotherapy (anti-craving medications) and behavioral interventions for AUD, but evidence suggests that overall, fewer than 10% of patients with AUD are offered these treatments. It is unknown how many patients are offered anti-craving medications in the ED setting where patients are most recently seen for alcohol related harms.

This project will aim to characterize the management of patients with AUD at three large urban emergency departments in downtown Toronto. We will conduct an audit of electronic charts for patients seen in these three emergency departments indicating any coding related to alcohol use. We will abstract physician practice data related to the following four specific areas of interest:

1. Evidence of screening for alcohol use
2. Evidence of a brief intervention targeting alcohol use
3. The ED prescribing of anti-craving medications (naltrexone, acamprosate, gabapentin) to manage alcohol use disorder on patient discharge
4. Referral to addiction focused follow-up resources (addictions clinic, family physician with expertise in addictions)

This work will form the baseline evaluation for a larger project which will develop educational and practical resources to improve the care provided to patients with problem drinking seen in the emergency department.