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Project Title
The impact of retirement on health care utilization in Canada: The role of frailty

Project Summary
The growing number of retired people can threaten the sustainability of the pension systems and several countries have responded to this challenge by raising the retirement age. Canada has not yet increased the retirement age, but there is an ongoing policy debate to do so. However, any positive effects from prolonged labor force participation should be evaluated against the undesirable effects. Older adults are a highly heterogeneous group as their life courses of health and functional status vary substantially. This heterogeneity can be measured using frailty by differentiating the service needs across the frailty spectrum. This project will examine the impact of retirement on health care use and the role of frailty on this causal relationship using data from the first two waves of the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging. This project will offer important policy implications for pension-related reform and the service allocation process for older Canadians.

Keywords
Health policy, Frailty, Retirement, Causal impact, Heterogeneity