

Home Care is the Future

August 22, 2011 - The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) welcomes the paper – *Bringing Value Home* – recently released by the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres (OACCAC). Home care is integral to the health care system and, more importantly, it is where Ontarians prefer to receive care.

An efficient and effective home care system assists Ontarians by appropriately utilizing the skills of all members of the health care team to achieve value. Providing the full array of home care services, including access to case/care managers, family physicians, nurses, therapists, community pharmacists and personal support workers is essential to support good health outcomes. These “constellations” of service providers work together to care for people and address Ontario’s health priorities.

Improved outcomes for clients are also achieved by integrating home care with emergency services, primary care, and palliative care, to name a few examples. Key to the success of this integration at the provider level is improved coordination of care, elimination of duplication, and the recognition and optimization of the contributions of all team members. The team based approach ensures that the outcomes realized are greater than the sum of the parts – in other words, value is realized.

Providing quality health care to Ontarians is a fundamental principle on which the government of Ontario bases health care policy development. The *Excellent Care for All Act* is intended to strengthen accountability for quality and to reinforce principles of organizing care around the individual. Best evidence and standards of care will be better linked to ensure the efficient use of resources and achieve value for the individuals served.

A robust home care system will improve the quality of life, achieve better health outcomes for Ontarians, and reduce the need for care in the most expensive parts of the health system. OHCA supports efforts to tip the balance of care provision to the community so that Ontarians of all ages are able to confidently cope at home. The Association will continue to work with the OACCAC and other partners to realize an improved health system for Ontarians.

- 30 -

About the OHCA

The OHCA, *the voice of home care in Ontario*, is a membership association representing providers of quality home care services from across Ontario. OHCA members represent an estimated 25,000 staff collectively serving 300,000 Ontarians per year. OHCA works with families as integral partners in the delivery of home care services and as such estimates that 1.2 million Ontarians are impacted by members. OHCA is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of the home and community health care sector by helping to shape health care policy, supporting members to excel, and being a leading source of information on home and community care. OHCA members are accredited through Accreditation Canada, CARF, and/or registered with the International Standards Association (ISO).

For more information, contact:

Susan D. VanderBent, Executive Director

Phone: 905-543-9474 Fax: 905-545-1568

Email: suevan@homecareontario.ca

For the latest in news and information about the home care sector in Ontario, subscribe to the Ontario Home Care Association’s “House Call” at www.homecareontario.ca.