



Ontario Home Care Association welcomes home care funding announcement to address ER wait times

May 30, 2008:- The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) applauds today's announcement to enhance home care coverage in order to reduce wait times in emergency rooms and improve patient satisfaction.

Increased funding to the home care sector will mean that more Ontarians are able to receive care after leaving the ER; and through enhanced care prevent the need for emergency room presentation. It is vital that this increased funding be directly targeted to patient care and OHCA recommends that the McGuinty government encourage innovative and flexible approaches to home care programs, including expansion of the eligibility requirements and the increase of hours available to individuals.

"Home care is key to improving wait times in emergency rooms because these services will assist people and their families to go home safely and with confidence" said OHCA Executive Director, Sue VanderBent.

New and innovative delivery home care options that include electronic point of care documentation; digital wound photography; telephone support and specialized clinic-based care will relieve the hospital burden for those who are able to stay in the community. A sustainable home care system that truly provides support for people in their homes is the only way to effectively break the cycle of non-acute utilization of emergency departments.

OHCA will continue to work with the OHA and other health system partners to advance solutions to provide "the right care at the right place" and ultimately increase Ontarians confidence in their health care system.

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About 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 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 the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) and/or the International Standards Association (ISO).

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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.