

July 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Local Health Integration Networks  
Community Care Access Centres  
Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres  
Ontario Home Care Association  
Ontario Community Services Association  
Ontario Hospital Association  
Ontario Long-Term Care Association  
Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors  
Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services

FROM: Debra Bell, Manager, Long-Term Care and Community Care

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On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the government announced a commitment to strengthen the quality of home care and community care services in Ontario. As part of this commitment, the government of Ontario has approved amendments to the following regulations:

- Regulation 554/06 under the *Community Care Access Corporations Act, 2001*
- Regulation 386/99 under the *Long-Term Care Act, 1994*
- Regulation 552 under the *Health Insurance Act*
- Regulation 201/96 under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act*

The amendments update and consolidate the regulations that apply to the home and community care sector, while enabling innovation in the care that is delivered by and through CCACs. The amendments are part of the government's broader strategy for home care that includes public reporting on quality measures, improvements to the competitive bidding process, and the development of integrated client care teams based on clinical conditions / groupings. The amendments will be effective on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

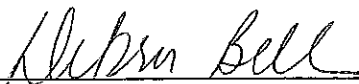
Information about the amendments as well as a summary will be posted on the Ministry's website on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Information sessions relating to these amendments will be held in early September, prior to the effective date. More information on these sessions will be provided throughout the summer. A brief summary of the regulatory amendments is provided below.

The amendments promote innovation, client-centred care, flexibility, and sustainability. Ontarians will benefit from new placement services, new health services and new venues for service. The amendments enable:

- CCACs to broaden their role in the health care system by providing CCACs with the authority to manage the placement of persons into adult day programs, supportive housing programs funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care or a Local Health Integration Network, and chronic care and rehabilitation beds in public hospitals.
- Professional home care services (nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech-language pathology, dietetics, respiratory therapy, social work, social service work, training, diagnostic and laboratory services and medical supplies and equipment) to be provided to eligible clients in a group or congregate setting.
- New, more specialized services (pharmacy services and respiratory therapy services) to be provided to eligible clients, to improve the range of services for clients who are at a higher risk of experiencing medical complications.
- The use of assistants in providing professional services, to improve client access to home care services.
- CCACs to provide new services (Respiratory Therapy and Nursing services in the context of the Ministry's Nurse-Led Outreach Teams) to eligible long-term care home residents to enhance the health services available to residents.

Further information on the amendments will be available at [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca) on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. The regulations will also be published on the Government of Ontario E-laws website at [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca).

Thank you,



Debra Bell  
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Long-Term Care and Community Care Unit