

OHCA Position Statement

Managing Care across Multiple LHIN Boundaries

The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) is excited by the opportunities afforded the people of the province through the establishment of the Local Health Integrated Networks (LHINs) and the energy created by the transformation agenda. While LHINs will not directly provide care, they are mandated to plan, integrate and fund local health care service needs and will be accountable for alignment with a provincial strategy. Ultimately, LHINs will organize care that is delivered in the right place at the right time and as close to home as possible.

Concern has been expressed by many providers and/or their Associations that the new LHIN boundaries are difficult to navigate and will cause concomitant challenges and increased costs to their own organizations and operations of delivery.

The OHCA believes that the interests of clients and patients must take precedence over individual organizational needs.¹ To this end, the OHCA has reviewed its own organizational structure, governance, administrative needs and Board functions. Significant changes have been made to adapt the OHCA to participate fully within the new LHIN environment in order to deliver care closer to home.

OHCA believes that to be effective, it is incumbent upon all health care organizations to find ways to adapt their own existing structures to the new boundaries thus ensuring that their valuable programs are well understood by the LHINs and other healthcare partners.

¹ The OHCA supports the decision to design boundaries based on patient travel patterns as was the case when the LHIN geographic boundaries were developed based. Ontarians can go to whichever provider they wish for their health care; however it is expected that a high proportion of the population will seek acute care from within the boundaries of the LHIN. (Local Health Integration Networks – Questions and Answers, ICES Oct 2004)



The OHCA further believes that organizations and Associations can plan, reorganize, collaborate and work with the LHINs to improve the coordination of care for the people they serve.

OHCA Recommendations:

The OHCA believes that organizations must, and can, manage care across LHIN boundaries, and accordingly recommends that:

- ♦ The interests of clients and patients take precedence over individual organizational needs.
- ♦ To facilitate adaptation to LHIN goals and objectives, organizations review and reform their current structures and practices.
- ♦ Organizations clearly identify where and how they fit within and across the LHINs in order to clearly articulate their value proposition.
- ♦ All health care organizations and the LHINs work toward consistency of process and purpose to effectively span boundary lines.
- ♦ Organizations commit to trusting, productive collaboration and be confident that their interests can be communicated to the LHINs even when a representative cannot be physically present.
- ♦ InterLHIN planning meetings for client/patient services that overlap be encouraged so that organizations can be assured that their messages are heard by more than one LHIN at a time.
- ♦ LHINs employ all available methods of communication to enable organizations to articulate their messages during engagement processes.
- ♦ All organizations demonstrate cooperation across the health care system in order to ensure that patient care is not negatively impacted at any point throughout the transformation.

The OHCA represents Canadian home care service organizations that collectively employ over 30,000 staff and deliver quality home care to an estimated 250,000 Ontarians annually. OHCA members are accredited through the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) or the International Standards Association (ISO).

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