

## **OHCA members embrace ‘Canadian Patient Safety Week’ and National Research Initiative on Home Care Safety**

November 1, 2010 – Members of the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) welcome Canadian Patient Safety Week (CPSW) as an opportunity to remind all who are engaged in the provision of health care services to undertake the full range of strategies to ensure safe care.

The home care context is unique. Clients receiving care in their own homes are considered to be ‘consumers of care’ to a far greater degree than ‘patients’ in the institutional or long term facility sector. Home care recipients are seen on their own terms and the home care provider must respect individual client rights within their own homes. As a result, home and community care providers balance the need to create a safe working environment for staff and volunteers and provide safe care for clients. The reliance on families to assist in the delivery of home care also necessitates effective education and communication in order to assure safety at home.

OHCA acknowledges the important work of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and commends the launch of a \$1million research initiative focused on home care announced in September 2010. . This important research work will generate new knowledge and contribute to improving the safety of home care services for Canadians.

In Ontario, health system transformation is grounded in understanding the needs of individuals and tipping the balance of care provision in favour of the community so that Ontarians of all ages who are ‘on the fringe’ of admission to a facility can receive care and stay at home with confidence. Creating a safe work environment for staff and the practices that support safe provision care is essential to realizing Ontario’s health system goals.

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### **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).

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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](http://www.homecareontario.ca).