

Responding to the OHQC challenge

June 18, 2010 – The Ontario Health Quality Council (OHQC) challenged readers to use its *2010 Report on Ontario's Health System* to look for opportunities for improvement within the health system.

Responding to this challenge, the Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) suggests that home and community care is vital to supporting improved results for many of the Council's key findings.

Specifically, home care interventions can help to address the wait times for a LTC bed; provide proactive chronic disease prevention and management support; support primary care; and leverage information technology to enhance the quality, timeliness and accuracy of information.

OHCA commends the OHQC for its recognition of the ways that home care can contribute to a high performing health system. Ontarians want to remain at home in familiar surroundings for as long as possible. The Ontario government is helping to realize that goal by transforming the health system and tipping the balance of care to the community. As the voice for home care in Ontario, the OHCA champions a well resourced home and community care sector that is flexible, proactive and responsive; and most importantly, supports both the care recipient and the caregiver. Client-centred care within the home care context means:

- achieving excellence in home assessments and inter-agency communications, especially during a transition from hospital to home.
- investing in supportive care to enable optimum functioning for individuals at the 'fringe' of admission to institutional care.
- managing the delicate balance between the need to create a safe working environment for home care staff and providing safe care for clients while respecting their individual rights within their own homes.
- equipping providers with the technology to support communication, data collection and information management in order to continuously learn and improve.

The health system transformation in Ontario is grounded in organizing care around the person and improving the health outcomes of individuals. By tipping the balance of care provision in favour of the community, Ontarians of all ages will be able to confidently live and age at home. The OHQC Report creates a roadmap for improvement and the OHCA will continue to work with all system partners to realize an improved health system for Ontarians.

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About the OHCA

The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA), *the voice of home care in Ontario*, is an organization of home health and social care service providers. Association members deliver nursing care, home support services, personal care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics, speech language therapy and medical equipment and supplies in the home to individuals of all ages. OHCA members are contracted by all three levels of government, Community Care Access Centres, insurance companies, institutions, corporations and private individuals. OHCA members are accredited through the Accreditation Canada 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.