FALLS PREVENTION EQUIPMENT FUNDING POLICY:

1.0 Purpose of Funding

To provide supplementary funding to Long-Term Care (LTC) homes to procure equipment, (including devices and assistive aids) that will help prevent residents from falling or suffering injuries from falls.

2.0 Funding Approach

2.0 All Licensees that are party to a Letter of Agreement for Ministry Direct Funding to Long-Term Care Homes (DFA) with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry) with respect of a LTC home will receive direct Falls Prevention Equipment Funding from the ministry for the LTC home, in accordance with, and subject to, the terms and conditions of this policy and the DFA.

2.1 The ministry will provide the Falls Prevention Equipment Funding in the amount of $100 per bed per year effective July 1, 2018 for the period of April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 and for every 12 month period thereafter for every licensed or approved bed in each eligible LTC home. This will be based on the number of licensed/approved beds in operation, as determined by the ministry, as of April 1 of each such year. Beds in abeyance and ELDCAP beds are excluded from this determination.

2.2 This funding is for the provision of falls prevention equipment (including devices and assistive aids) for all LTC home residents (including long-stay, interim, respite and convalescent care residents) in the LTC home based on the assessed need and the plan of care for each resident.

2.3 A LTC home will be eligible for this funding every year as long as they meet the terms and conditions set out in this policy.

3.0 Terms and Conditions of Funding

3.0 Falls Prevention Equipment Funding (the Funding) may only be expended on equipment (including devices and/or assistive aids) that is required, and documented in the resident’s plan of care, to:

3.01 help prevent falls, or help provide those who have experienced a fall with further support to prevent subsequent falls;

3.02 help prevent injuries from falls;

3.03 promote mobility; or

3.04 help prevent a decline in functional/clinical status when that function or clinical status has been lost or impaired due to a fall.

3.1 To be eligible to retain the funding, eligible equipment purchases must be made by the LTC home within the same April to March period in which the funding was received, and the equipment purchased must be received by the LTC home within that same period.
3.2 Subject to sections 3.0, and 3.3, the Funding may be expended on one or more of the following personal falls or injury prevention equipment (including devices and assistive aids)¹:

3.2.1 Walkers (e.g. two-wheeled; folding; adjustable)
3.2.2 Canes (e.g. quad canes; adjustable)
3.2.3 Wheelchairs (e.g. type 2; dynamic tilt, cushions)
3.2.4 Automatic braking systems for resident wheelchairs
3.2.5 Alarms (e.g. seat belt alarms; seat pad alarms; bed alarms; chair alarms; toilet seat alarms)
3.2.6 Hip protectors
3.2.7 Helmets
3.2.8 Commodes (e.g. stationary; adjustable)
3.2.9 Non-slip socks

3.3 Subject to s. 3.0, any of the Funding that was not spent for items listed in section 3.2 may be used only to purchase one or more of the following structural falls prevention equipment, provided the equipment is purchased, received and installed within the timelines specified in section 3.1 for each funding period.¹

3.3.1 Illuminating motion sensor lighting for resident’s rooms
3.3.2 Superpole with extension and horizontal support; vertical assist rails; support and grab bars at bedside or in the washroom
3.3.3 Fall protection flooring or bedside mats
3.3.4 High-Low beds
3.3.5 Washroom support and grab bars
3.3.6 Toilets (e.g. toilet risers, raised toilets)

3.4 The ministry may review the falls and injury prevention equipment listed in 3.2 and 3.3 periodically and update as necessary in consultation with LTC homes.

3.5 To maintain continuous eligibility for this funding, LTC homes must meet the accountability and reporting requirements outlined in section 4.0.

¹ Examples are included to provide guidance and assistance for homes, and should not be treated as an exhaustive list.
4.0 Accountability and Reporting Requirements

4.1 Each LTC home is expected to maintain or improve on its performance measured against both of the following outcome quality measures related to falls:

4.1.1 The proportion of residents at the home that have fallen within the last 30 days (Data source: Continuing Care Reporting System (RAI-MDS); metric produced by CIHI)

4.1.2 The prevalence of residents of the home being transferred to a hospital Emergency Department due to fall related injuries (Data source: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System; metric produced by Health Analytics Branch, MOHLTC)

4.2 If a LTC home has not maintained or improved on its performance measured against the two outcome quality measures for falls as outlined in section 4.1 in any fiscal year (i.e. April 1 to March 31), the home is required to seek advice and identify strategies to improve its performance (e.g., seeking advice from accrediting bodies, consulting best practice guidelines, and/or connecting with LTC homes with reduced fall rates, etc.).

4.3 If a LTC home has not maintained or improved on its outcome quality measures for falls as outlined in section 4.1 for two consecutive fiscal (April to March) years, the Ministry may conduct an inspection at the LTC home for the purpose of ensuring compliance with requirements under the Long Term Care Homes Act, 2007.

4.4 If a LTC home has not maintained or improved on its outcome quality measures for falls as outlined in section 4.1 for three consecutive fiscal (April to March) years, the Ministry may reduce a home’s Falls Prevention Equipment Fund allotment in subsequent fiscal years.

4.5 In addition to the public reporting that Health Quality Ontario provides for the proportion of LTC residents at each LTC home that have fallen within the last 30 days, the prevalence of LTC residents transferred to a hospital Emergency Department due to fall related injuries at each LTC home will be posted by the ministry on ltchomes.net website with associated benchmarks.

4.6 The ministry will track LTC homes’ achievements of quality measures for falls (as outlined in section 4.1) through comparing the outcomes in every fiscal year with the baseline data (i.e. April 1, 2017 to March 2018).

4.7 Funding for falls prevention equipment will be reconciled through attestation in the form provided by the Ministry. Homes will be required to attest as part of their Annual Reconciliation process that they have used the funding for equipment intended to reduce falls or injuries from falls.