

Ministry of Health

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April 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief Executive Officers of Ontario Public Hospitals and Long-Term Care Licensees and Operators

FROM: **Helen Angus**
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson
President & CEO, Ontario Health

Richard Steele
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

RE: **Transfer of Hospital Patients and Community Clients to Long-Term Care Homes**

In follow up to the April 16th memo to hospitals asking for the temporary pause of discharging patients to Long-Term Care homes and retirement homes, hospitals may discharge patients to Long-Term care homes where:

1. It is a readmission to long-term care (the resident is returning to their home)
2. The receiving home is NOT in a COVID-19 outbreak
3. The resident has been tested for COVID-19 at point of discharge, has a negative result and is transferred to the home within 24 hours of receiving the result
4. The receiving home has a plan to ensure that the resident being readmitted can complete 14-days of self-isolation

Initial admissions to long-term care from hospital continue to be temporarily paused. An approach that balances health service provider and patient/resident impacts is under consideration.

There are no restrictions on residents returning to the home from outpatient visits, but the home is encouraged to consult with the hospital about whether a more appropriate arrangement may be to keep residents with frequent hospital visits in hospital.

The Ministry of Long-Term Care has received many questions about admissions from the community and these should continue under the following circumstances:

1. The receiving home is NOT in a COVID-19 outbreak
2. The resident has been tested for COVID-19, has a negative result and is transferred to the home within 24 hours of receiving the result
3. The receiving home has a plan to ensure that the resident being admitted can complete 14-days of self-isolation

All homes are asked to consider the ability to isolate, in the event of an outbreak, in their determination of rate of admission to the home.

Thank you for your understanding and for your extraordinary efforts.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Helen Angus
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson
President & CEO
Ontario Health

Richard Steele
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Long-Term
Care

- c: Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ms. Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Mr. Mike Heenan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Hospitals and Capital Division
Mr. Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long Term Care
Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long Term Care
Ms. Lisa Levin, AdvantAge Ontario
Ms. Donna Duncan, Ontario Long Term Care Association
Mr. Anthony Dale, Ontario Hospital Association
Ms. Catherine Brown, President, Ontario Health Shared Services