

Ministry of Health

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#173-2020-28

MEMORANDUM TO: Ontario Public Hospitals

FROM: Mike Heenan
Assistant Deputy Minister

RE: Hospital Classifications under s. 32.1(1) of the *Public Hospitals Act* during the COVID-19 emergency

On March 26, 2020, pursuant to delegated authority, I granted general approval to all public hospitals under subsection 4(2) of the *Public Hospitals Act* (PHA) to operate and use an institution, building or other premises or place ("premises") for the purposes of a hospital, provided that certain conditions are met.

Given the current situation, the Ministry of Health will not be using its discretion under s. 32.1(1) of the PHA to assign classifications to hospitals or revise classifications; hospitals can proceed to operate as necessary to meet the demands arising from the COVID-19 emergency in the absence of such classification assignments and revisions.

For example, a multi-site hospital corporation may operate all its sites as necessary to meet the demands arising from the COVID-19 emergency without revising classifications for the various sites. Likewise, a hospital corporation can operate a new site absent a new classification.

This approach remains in effect with the general approval under subsection 4(2) of the PHA until June 30, 2020 unless it is revoked earlier.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Heenan".

Mike Heenan
Assistant Deputy Minister