

April 15, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief Executive Officers of Ontario Public Hospitals

FROM: **Matthew Anderson**
President & CEO, Ontario Health

Helen Angus
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Richard Steele
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

Denise Cole
Deputy Minister, Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

RE: **Temporary Pause on Transitioning Hospital Patients to Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes**

To protect the residents of long-term care homes and retirement homes across Ontario, we are asking Ontario hospitals to temporarily stop transferring patients to long-term care and retirement homes. This action builds on the government's [COVID-19 Action Plan for Protecting Long-Term Care Homes](#) that was released today.

We understand hospitals work to discharge patients to the next step in their care journey in order to help the patient receive appropriate levels of care and to create additional bedded capacity within the hospital. However, with hospital acute care capacity across Ontario at 64.1% as of April 13th, we believe hospitals can continue to care for these patients safely given the risk of COVID-19 in LTC and retirement home settings.

This guidance does not prohibit hospitals from discharging other designated ALC patients to appropriate, safe destinations. If this action will cause a critical patient flow issue in your hospital, please contact your Regional Lead at OH. We will communicate back to you at a future date when transfers to long-term care and retirement homes should be reactivated.

Thank you for your understanding and for your extraordinary efforts at this time.

- c: Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
- Mike Heenan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Hospitals and Capital Division
- Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long Term Care
- Anthony Dale, Ontario Hospital Association
- Donna Duncan, Ontario Long Term Care Association
- Jay O'Neil, Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority
- Cathy Hecimovich, Ontario Retirement Communities Association
- Lisa Levin, AdvantAge Ontario