Changes to Physiotherapy Services Insured under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)

The government is implementing a comprehensive program for community and primary care physiotherapy. Effective August 1, 2013, non-hospital physiotherapy services will be removed from the Health Insurance Act as insured services and established as budget-based programs for specific programs and health sectors. Physiotherapy services in community settings will continue to be funded and there will be improved access across the province.

Ontario will work with existing DPCs and other providers of physiotherapy services in the transition to preserve and expand access to physiotherapy services.

What is changing?

Physiotherapy will be removed from the Health Insurance Act as an insured service and, instead of being paid on a fee-for-service basis, will be funded under contracts and/or agreements.

How will these changes affect DPCs?

Effective August 1, 2013, there will be no clinics designated under the Health Insurance Act and the OHIP billing privileges held by Designated Physiotherapy Clinics (DPCs) will be eliminated. However, the government is committed to working with the existing DPCs in transitioning into the new funding model.
Over the next several months, the ministry and the LHINs will be engaging with DPCs and other physiotherapy providers interested in providing publicly funded physiotherapy services in communities across Ontario in the following settings:

**Clinics**

- All existing DPCs will be offered a funding agreement to provide clinic-based services under the new funding model.

- Patients may be eligible for publicly-funded physiotherapy in a clinic if they have a physician or nurse practitioner referral and meet other criteria including that they are:
  - age 65 or older;
  - under age 20;
  - any age after overnight hospitalization (for a condition that requires physiotherapy); or
  - a recipient of Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

In addition, physiotherapy providers including DPCs that are interested in providing publicly funded physiotherapy services in additional locations across Ontario can respond to a call for applications being undertaken by the ministry this summer in partnership with the LHINs.

**Long-Term Care (LTC) Homes:**

- LTC Homes will receive direct funding for the provision of physiotherapy services.

- LTC Homes may then choose to enter into a contract or an agreement to provide physiotherapy services in the LTC Home with their current provider or may choose a new provider.

**Patient’s homes:**

- Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) will be the single point of access for in-home physiotherapy and will receive significant additional funding to provide more physiotherapy services to people in their homes.

- Physiotherapy providers including former DPCs interested in providing in-home physiotherapy services may have an opportunity to provide services under contract with CCACs. Interested providers should refer to the CCAC website at http://www.ccac-ont.ca for information on the CCAC procurement/RFP process.

For current DPCs interested in continuing to participate in the provision of publicly funded physiotherapy services under the new funding model, more information will be available in the coming weeks.

Please refer to the attached Qs & As for DPCs for further information.
DPCs with specific questions about these changes can send them by email to: PhysiotherapyProviders@Ontario.ca or visit the ministry’s site at www.ontario.ca/physiotherapy