

Accountability Agreement Update

Assignment of Agreements Proceeds According to Plan

The Ministry moved forward this week with notifying health service providers, including hospitals with completed Hospital Accountability Agreements (HAAs), of the assignment of accountability and service agreements to Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs).

Hospitals with completed 2007/08 HAAs can expect to receive notification from the Ministry indicating that their agreements will be assigned to LHINs effective April 1, 2007.

The proclamation of key provisions of the *Local Health System Integration Act, 2006* (LHSIA) paved the way to the assignment of agreements. Other important provisions, such as those granting LHINs funding authority, will become law on April 1st.

In Brief

Ministry proceeds with the assignment of agreements to LHINs.

A collaborative approach to the development of accountability agreements continues to be key.

On Track with the Proclamation of Key Provisions

Effective March 19, 2007, key provisions permitting the assignment of the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care's rights and obligations to a LHIN under all, or part, of an accountability agreement between the Minister and a health service provider, were proclaimed into force. The specific provisions include subsections 19(3), 19(4) and 19(5).

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Other key provisions will become law on April 1st. They include:

- Subsections 18(1), 18(2), 18(3) and 18(5), which set out provisions related to the Ministry-LHIN Accountability Agreement (MLAA);
- Subsections 19(1) and 19(2), which provide authority for LHINs to fund health service providers; and
- Section 21 which permits a LHIN to direct a health service provider to undergo an audit at any time.

For details, see the March 17th issue of *The Ontario Gazette*.

Strengthening Accountability: A Collaborative Approach Continues to be Key

More than a year ago, to build on the work of the JPPC's Multi-Year Funding Committee, the Ministry and the hospital sector agreed on a bilateral approach to the development and implementation of hospital accountability agreements.

"The Ministry and hospitals have a well-established tradition of working together through the JPPC. The JPPC's Accountability Committee has provided us with an invaluable forum for putting in motion the development of indicators and hospital measures for use in accountability agreements," said Accountability Committee co-Chair and Assistant Deputy Minister Hugh MacLeod.



"It's an approach that has served us well this past year, and accordingly significant gains have been made in introducing and implementing the HAPS/HAA process sector-wide."

With the 2007/08 HAPS/HAA process winding down, the committee is already looking ahead to 2008/09 and the development of new agreements with LHINs at the table. As reported in the last issue of *Accountability Agreement Update*, it is assisting in the alignment of HAA indicators with those in the Ministry-LHIN Accountability Agreement (MLAA).

The committee expects to have more information to provide on the slate of indicators for 2008/09, changes to the hospital template agreement, as well as the timelines and requirements related to annual planning submissions later this spring.

For more information on the alignment of expectation-setting activities from the perspective of health system accountability and performance, see Hugh MacLeod's article in the March 2007 issue of *The OHA Advocate*.

Key Links and Resources

- Ontario Hospital Association *OHAAdvocate*, Volume 2: Issue 3, Special Feature: “Sharing Accountability for Results and Promoting Performance Improvement”
http://www.oha.com/client/oha/oha_lp4w_lnd_webstation.nsf/page/OHAAdvocate

- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s Hospital Planning and Accountability website, *Transitioning to LHINs and The Legal Environment*
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/hosp_plan/hosp_plan_mn.html

- Ontario Hospital Association *Executive Report*, Volume 19: Issue 12, “Key Provisions of LHIN Legislation Proclaimed in Force”
http://www.oha.com/client/oha/oha_lp4w_lnd_webstation.nsf/page/Executive+Report

- Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) *Executive Report*, Volume 19: Issue 7
http://www.oha.com/client/oha/oha_lp4w_lnd_webstation.nsf/page/Executive+Report

- Joint Policy and Planning Committee website – Accountability Section
<http://www.jppc.org/ha>

New • March 17th issue of *The Ontario Gazette*
<http://www.ontariogazette.gov.on.ca/>

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Accountability Agreement Update is published by the Joint Policy and Planning Committee (JPPC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA). It is intended to keep senior executives in Ontario hospitals informed of new developments related to negotiations with hospitals towards achieving balanced budgets and the signing of accountability agreements.

Tell Us What You Think

We welcome your feedback. Let us know whether you are finding this newsletter helpful, or write to us with your suggestions or questions to:

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