
Local Health Integration Networks: Building a True System

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Before the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) can take on the role of funding local health services, expected to start on April 1, the existing transfer payment/service agreements between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and health service providers must be assigned to the LHINs.

Work is currently underway to enable this assignment of agreements, under the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006. It's a process that will transfer the ministry's responsibilities under the agreements to the LHINs – in most cases. It's important to note that some provincially oriented or claims-based programs will remain with the ministry.

The LHINs will be responsible for negotiating new service accountability agreements with their health service providers, but until that happens, the existing (transferred) agreements will remain in force. The ministry has developed a draft regulation that would require the LHINs to negotiate new service accountability agreements over a three-year period. This draft regulation was posted in The Ontario Gazette on February 10, 2007, for 60 days of public consultation. More information is available on the ministry's website at www.health.gov.on.ca.

The rest of this Bulletin highlights areas of LHIN responsibility and areas of ministry responsibility to help you understand whether funding and management of the programs and services you deliver will be transferred to the LHINs.

What Will Be Assigned to the LHINs?

Acute Sector

Programs and services delivered and managed by public hospitals will be managed by the LHINs through the

assignment of the Hospital Accountability Agreement. The exceptions are cancer programs currently funded and managed by Cancer Care Ontario and the Paediatric Oncology Group of Ontario.

Long-Term Care

Long-Term Care Homes will be assigned to the LHINs through the assignment of the following service agreements (with exceptions noted):

- Service Agreement, Convalescent Care Beds Program Amending Agreement and Short Stay Beds Notification Letter (except for any provisions required to support ministry compliance functions, which will remain with the ministry)
- Development Agreement (only selected provisions related to the Service Agreement and funding will be assigned to the LHINs)
- Beds in Abeyance Documentation

The **ministry** will continue to process payments and determine policy for:

- High Intensity Needs Fund and Lab Costs
- Municipal Tax Allowance
- Pay Equity Program
- High Wage Transition Fund
- Structural Compliance Program
- Occupancy Based Funding
- Rate Reduction Program (application process will continue to be administered by the homes)
- Exceptional Circumstance Funding

Community Health Sector

Programs and services delivered or managed by Community Health Centres (CHC) will be assigned to the LHINs. The exceptions are Midwifery and Chronic Disease Programs, which will continue to be funded and managed by the ministry. In addition, the ministry will provide overall direction on the CHC expansion plan.

Mental Health and Addictions

Community mental health and addictions services delivered or managed by community mental health and addictions agencies will be assigned to the LHINs through the existing service agreements or the Hospital Accountability Agreement, as applicable. The exceptions are the following programs, which will continue to be funded and managed by the ministry:

- Supportive Housing (dedicated portfolio and rent supplements)
- Inter-ministerial Provincial Advisory Committee (IMPAC)
- Homes for Special Care Program

Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) and Community Support Services

The responsibility for Community Care Access Centres will be assigned to the LHINs. Programs and services delivered or managed by community support service agencies will also be assigned to the LHINs. The exceptions are the following programs, which will continue to be funded and managed by the ministry:

- ABI – Individualized Funding
- Homemaking and Nursing Services under the *Homemaking and Nursing Services Act*
- Elderly Persons Centres
- Direct Funding-Self Managed Attendant Services
- Palliative Education
- Personal Support Worker Training

Please regularly check the ministry's website at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/lhin/lhin_mn.html for the latest news on the ministry's transformation.

This update is produced by the LHIN Communications Team.
For more information call INFOline at 1-888-779-7767 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday