

# JUST THE FACTS... Ontario Health Teams

For Affiliates and Supporters

**Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)** are a critical component of the Ontario Government's plan to reorganize health care services and will provide a new way of organizing and delivering health care services in local communities. Through OHTs, health care providers will work as one connected team making it easier for people to access services and transition between providers, and empower patients and families in their personal health care. The Durham OHT received the green light from the Ministry of Health (MOH) to submit a full application, which is the next phase of a multi-phase process to become an OHT. The Durham OHT is comprised of an Oversight Committee of 16 organizations with representation from primary care, acute care, and home care and community providers, along with regional government, and patient, family and caregiver representatives. The deadline to submit a full application is October 9, 2019, with the MOH expected to announce the first OHTs in late Fall 2019.

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## Updates

- Taking time to build relationships with patients and caregivers, organizations and community partners is critical to the longer term success of the partnership.
- Through the affiliates and supporters, the Durham OHT will provide multiple access points to the system.
- The intention of the Durham OHT is to include all partners at maturity. Empowerment of providers to work together to deliver high quality coordinated care is embedded within the current approach.
- Reaching maturity will occur over a number of years. Quick wins will be key to realizing meaningful success.
- Status update:
  - The Governance Working Group is developing an interim framework under which the OHT will operate in Year One.
  - The Clinical Working Groups have identified two patient populations for Year One: older adults living with frailty and individuals living with complex conditions. A third focus on people with mental health conditions and addictions is also being developed.
  - The Digital Working Group is focused on the MOH objectives with respect to expanding virtual care and access to digital information.
  - The Home and Community Care Working Group is focused on the design of innovative service delivery, increasing accountability for performance and support efficient and integrated service delivery.

## Durham OHT

- Under the Governance structure, there is no legally binding agreement and all organizations are expected to maintain their autonomy in Year One.
- The Durham OHT Oversight Committee members are providing both financial and in-kind contributions. No MOH funding has been committed to OHT development at this point.
- The Durham OHT Oversight Committee will remain as is through this phase of the process, however, it is hoped that some key partners (including primary care) may formally sign on to the full OHT submission due October 9, 2019. Broader participation will be reviewed following the full OHT submission.
- Further progress updates to follow.