

Durham OHT

JUST THE FACTS... Ontario Health Teams

Communication for Patients, Clients and the Public

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.

Highlights

- **What is an OHT?**

An OHT is referred to as an Integrated Care Delivery System in the *People's Healthcare Act, 2019*, the legislation that is responsible for their creation. They are a group of health care providers that work together to design a system and deliver care to allow for smooth transitions for people living within a certain geographic area. Their premise is based on always improving the experience of the patients they serve.

- **About Durham OHT?**

The Durham OHT is a group of partners responsible for the delivery of all types of health care services, including home care, primary care and acute care. In its first year, the Durham OHT's activities will focus on three specific types of individual: older adults living with frailty, people living with complex conditions, and mental health and addictions. A digital health strategy and a Regional Patient Experience Office will be created to aid in the Durham OHT's work. The Regional Patient Experience Office will be responsible for collecting feedback from patients and families, and lead improvements in the OHT's performance across the entire region.

- **What is the status of the Durham OHT?**

The full submission is currently being developed and is focused on a plan to improve care for the key populations identified throughout Durham Region in its first year.

- **What needs to be included in the OHT Full Submission?**

The OHT full application provides a detailed plan of how members will work together in their first year to transform care and serve the first groups of identified patients, make decisions, share patient information and data, and how their teamwork will lead to improvement on a list of identified performance indicators (i.e., reduce the amount of times patients return to the emergency department. The submission includes sections on Home and Community Care and Digital Health.

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- **What is the Durham OHT approach to developing the Full OHT Submission?**
The Durham OHT is using a collaborative approach to develop the application. A number of groups, led by members of the Durham OHT Partners, involve multiple stakeholders and patient, family and caregiver representatives that are working together to come up with the ideas and information that will be included in the submission.