

Durham OHT

JUST THE FACTS... Ontario Health Teams

Communication for Primary Care Physicians

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, also known as an Integrated Care Delivery System in the *People's Healthcare Act, 2019*, is a group of health care providers who work together to design a system for their population and deliver care to allow for a seamless transition for patients accessing health care. The central premise is based on continuous improvement of the patient experience.
- **About Durham OHT?**
The Durham OHT Oversight Committee is comprised of partners from across the care continuum. The initial focus will be on high needs areas identified: older adults living with frailty, people living with complex conditions, mental health and addictions, a digital health strategy and the creation of a Regional Patient Experience Office.
- **What is the status of the Durham OHT?**
We are working toward a full submission of a Year One plan that represents all of Durham Region.
- **What is the Durham OHT approach to developing the Full OHT Submission?**
The Durham OHT is using an inclusive partnership approach to develop the application. A number of working groups, chaired by members of the Durham OHT Oversight Committee, involve multiple stakeholders, including primary care and patient, family and caregiver representatives to develop various aspects of the submission. These working groups include:
 - Governance (decision making) Working Group
 - Determine the interim framework under which the OHT will operate in Year One when organizations will be autonomous and there are no funding changes, and develop a process to determine how decisions will be made longer term.

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- Clinical Working Groups (2)
 - Identify Year One target patient populations for Durham Region and develop initiatives to provide more integrated care to these populations and specific indicators/metrics (as outlined by the MOH) which will demonstrate success of the partnership.
- Digital Working Group
 - Align with Ontario Government goals of increasing patient access to health information digitally and improving how providers share information to enhance delivery of care and service and decision-making. This work includes developing virtual health options for patients, providers and health and social service organizations.
- Home and Community Care Working
 - Design innovative service delivery, increasing accountability for performance and support efficient and integrated service delivery.
- **How do I become involved in the Durham OHT?**

If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to contribute to the Durham OHT please contact:

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