

Transfer of Hospital Patients and Community Clients to Long-Term Care Homes

Update to York Region long-term care homes as of April 30, 2020

On April 29, 2020, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Long-Term Care and Ontario Health issued updated COVID-19 guidance for public hospitals and long term care homes. You can access this guidance and other sector-specific guidance documents at york.ca/healthprofessionals on our COVID-19 page under “Sector-Specific Guidance Documents.”

Highlights:

- Hospitals may discharge patients to Long-Term Care Homes as a readmission
- Initial admissions to Long-Term Care Homes from hospital continue to be temporarily paused
- There are no restrictions on residents returning to the home from outpatient visits, but the home should consult with the hospital if the resident makes frequent hospital visits for more appropriate arrangements
- Admissions from the community to Long Term Care homes should continue under certain circumstances (described in this notice)

Guidance on Hospital Discharge of Patients

As a follow up to the April 16, 2020 memo to hospitals asking for the temporary pause of discharging patients to Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes, the Ministry of Health states that hospital may discharge patients to Long-Term Care homes where:

- It is a readmission to long-term care (resident is returning to their home)
- The receiving home is NOT in a COVID-19 outbreak
- The resident has been tested for COVID-19 at point of discharge, has a negative result and is transferred to the home within 24 hours of receiving the result
- The receiving home has a plan to ensure the resident can complete 14-days of self-isolation

In addition, the Ministry of Long-Term Care states that admissions from the community should continue under the following circumstances:

- The receiving home is NOT in a COVID-19 outbreak
- The resident has been tested for COVID-19, has a negative result and is transferred to the home within 24 hours of receiving the result
- The receiving home has a plan to ensure the resident can complete 14-days of self-isolation

All homes are asked to consider the ability to isolate, in the event of an outbreak, in their determination of rate of admission to the home.

Questions

Visit york.ca/healthprofessionals often to stay up-to-date on the latest information regarding COVID-19.

Health professionals can call our dedicated health professional COVID-19 line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280 (8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, after hours call 905-953-6478). These are the same numbers to contact if you are reporting a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.