



MEMORANDUM

TO: Community and Health Services Committee Members

FROM: Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: June 9, 2010

RE: **Local Health Integration Networks Service Accountability Agreements for Long Term Care Homes**

In accordance with the *Commitment to the Future of Medicare Act, 2004* and the *Local Health System Integration Act, 2006* the Central Local Health Integration Network (Central LHIN) is required to sign a Long Term Care Service Accountability Agreement (L-SAA) with each health service provider. The Region must, therefore, enter into a service accountability agreement with the Central LHIN for Newmarket Health Centre and Maple Health Centre in order to secure funding for these homes.

The L-SAA template Agreement for long term care homes was developed on behalf of all LHINs by a steering committee co-chaired by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and LHIN staff, in consultation with organizations representing service providers. The L-SAA consultation process began in the fall of 2009 and has continued through to May 2010. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors, the Ontario Long Term Care Association, the Ontario Hospital Association and the City of Toronto were all invited to participate in the L-SAA consultations.

While the Service Accountability Agreements are intended to treat all health service providers in the same manner, through consultations with the sector organizations, the L-SAA Steering Committee recognized the uniqueness of municipal homes following the experience in 2009 with the signing of the Multi-Sectoral Service Accountability Agreements (M-SAA). The Central LHIN recently announced that it developed two different L-SAA agreements: one for municipal homes and one for non-municipal homes. There have been some improvements when compared to the content of the M-SAA.

In the M-SAA, for example, the Region had to seek permission from the Central LHIN to subcontract any of the services for which it received LHIN funding. This type of consent is not required in the L-SAA. With respect to the M-SAA, the Region had written to the Central LHIN expressing concern that the Central LHIN could immediately terminate the agreement and funding if the Region breached a “material provision” of the agreement. The M-SAA, however, contained no explanation of what it considered a “material breach” or provision. The L-SAA agreement, in contrast, does not contain a provision that allows the Central LHIN to terminate immediately for a material breach by the Region.

The Region is required to sign the L-SAA by June 30, 2010. The L-SAA has a three year term; however, it can be amended during its term.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

HR

Attachment