

DATE: **December 24, 2020**

MEMORANDUM TO: Tess Romain, Transitional Regional Lead Toronto (Interim CEO, Toronto Central LHIN), Ontario Health
Donna Cripps, Transitional Regional Lead Central (CEO, Central West, Mississauga Halton, Central, North Simcoe Muskoka LHINs), Ontario Health
Cynthia Martineau, Interim Regional Lead East (CEO, Central East, South East, Champlain LHINs), Ontario Health
Long-Term Care Home Licensees
Long-Term Care Home Administrators
Public Health Units, Toronto, York, Peel and Durham Regions

FROM: Richard Steele
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

RE: **Specialized Care Centre for GTA LTCH Residents**

To help address the increased demand for COVID-19 outbreak support to long term-care (LTC) homes in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), a new Specialized Care Centre is being opened. The purpose of the Centre is to create capacity by allowing LTC homes in the GTA who are high risk sites for COVID-19 to temporarily move residents to this facility until the LTC home stabilizes operations. GTA includes LTC homes in Toronto, York, Peel and Durham regions.

The Specialized Care Centre will be run by Toronto Grace Health Centre, a well-known hospital in Toronto which specializes in care of seniors. The Specialized Care Centre is located in the Toronto Congress Centre at 650 Dixon Road in Etobicoke. They are working toward developing a total of 90 beds at this site, with the first 30 beds being ready to accept eligible resident transfers on December 28, 2020.

The framework that has been developed for the admission process will prioritize higher risk homes that have:

- staffing shortages;
- cohorting issues;
- difficulty implementing IPAC requirements;
- resident crowding resulting in COVID-19 outbreaks; and/or
- other clinical or facility issues.

When a home's Medical Director or Administrator confirms the desire to move resident(s), they should first consult with their IPAC HUB partner, LHIN IMS LTCH contact and local public health unit. The respective LHIN will contact Patricia Skol, Director of Care at Toronto Grace (416-925-2251 ext. 219 or 416-433-2380 Cell or by email pskol@torontograce.org) with the request. The Specialized Care Centre will call the LTC home to discuss the transfer request, resident care needs, availability and eligibility.

Note that the Specialized Care Centre will accept residents who are either COVID-19 positive or negative. Negative and positive residents will be cohorted separately and spaces are separately ventilated.

Upon acceptance to the Specialized Care Centre, Toronto Grace will arrange transfer of the resident to the Specialized Care Centre. This process requires the consent of the resident (or substitute decision-maker), and the LTC Home must also confirm that they will accept the transfer back of the resident from the Specialized Care Centre.

Discharge from the Specialized Care Centre and transfer back to long-term care homes can take place when safety issues at the resident's original home are resolved and the home is no longer considered to be high risk.

If required, patients of the Specialized Care Centre may be transferred to the Toronto Grace Hospital, or another hospital as appropriate to seek medical treatment if deemed necessary by the Specialized Care Centre clinical team.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Richard Steele
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

- c: Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division
- Ms. Sheila Bristo, Assistant Deputy Ministry, Long-Term Care Operations Division
- Ms. Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association
- Ms. Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
- Mr. Dan Kaniuk, Chair, Board of Directors, Ontario Long-Term Care Association
- Ms. Jane Sinclair, Chair, Board of Directors, Advantage Ontario
- Ms. Olha Dobush, Executive Lead, LTC Stabilization
- Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Mr. Matt Anderson, CEO and President, Ontario Health
- Mr. Jake Tran, President & Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Grace Health Centre
- Ms. Marnie Weber, UHN and Chair, SCC Steering Committee
- Dr. Robert Kyle, Medical Officer of Health, Durham Regional Health
- Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health, Peel Public Health
- Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health, City of Toronto Health
- Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health, York Region Public Health