

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**

Office of the Deputy Minister

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March 11, 2021

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Long-Term Care Homes Licensees  
Long-Term Care Home Administrators

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

**RE:** **Specialized Care Centre Support for LTCHs—Fulfilling Isolation Requirements Under Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes**

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While long-term care homes in the Greater Toronto Area continue to adopt enhanced measures to prevent and manage COVID-19 outbreaks, we would like to share the details of a new support mechanism provided by the Specialized Care Centre (SCC).

The SCC can now serve to fulfil isolation equivalency requirements for admission and transfer to LTCHs as outlined in Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* (Directive #3). The following groups are now included in the eligibility criteria for the SCC:

- **Repatriated long-term care home residents with existing bed holding** who are in the hospital and would be discharged to the SCC in order to fulfill the required 14-day isolation requirement as part of their transfer back to the long-term care home.
- **New long-term care home admissions** who would be temporarily admitted to the SCC to fulfill the required 14-day isolation requirement. These would be individuals/ patients who have been accepted by the long-term care home and for whom a bed has been matched and is available. Admissions to long-term care home and the SCC can be from the community or hospital.

The rigorous policies in place at the SCC are approved by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and are in line with the guidance given in Directive #3. As such, patients who fulfil their 14-day isolation requirement at the SCC can then be safely transferred to a long-term care home without requiring an additional 14-day isolation period.

Making use of the SCC for self-isolation requires the collaboration and concurrence of all parties involved—the resident, the long-term care home, public health, and the SCC. Licensees should take this into account when planning admission for residents.

This new option to work with SCC will help long-term care homes meet isolation requirements in Directive #3 and facilitate admissions to meet resident's care needs.

Residents at the SCC will be cared for by a highly skilled interprofessional team from the Toronto Grace Health Centre which is well known for its excellence in care for seniors and the elderly. We are happy to report that there has been very positive feedback in the past 3 months from residents and family members who have gone through this brief and temporary transfer to the SCC.

## More About the Specialized Care Centre

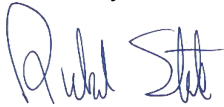
The SCC works in partnership with long-term care homes, residents and their families to ensure that patient care needs are met. Personalized care plans are created that allow residents to transition very well to their long-term care home.

The SCC was created to help address the increased demand for COVID-19 outbreak support to long term-care homes in Toronto, York, Peel and Durham regions. It has since been expanded to include Simcoe-Muskoka and Halton Region. The SCC has 90 beds staffed by Toronto Grace Health Centre. The SCC is located in the Toronto Congress Centre at 650 Dixon Road in Etobicoke.

If you have any questions about referrals to SCC, please call Patricia Skol, SCC Director, at 416-433-2380 (cell) or 416-925-2551 ext. 219 or [pskol@torontograce.org](mailto:pskol@torontograce.org).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Steele  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

c:

Erin Hannah, Associate Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Pandemic Response, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)

Sheila Bristo, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Operations Division, MLTC

Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association

Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario

Brent Gingerich, Chair, Board of Directors, Ontario Long-Term Care Association

Jane Sinclair, Chair, Board of Directors, AdvantAge Ontario

Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Matthew Anderson, CEO and President, Ontario Health

Tess Romain, Transitional Regional Lead (Toronto), Ontario Health

Donna Cripps, Transitional Regional Lead (Central), Ontario Health

Cynthia Martineau, Transitional Regional Lead (East), Ontario Health

Jake Tran, President & CEO, Toronto Grace Health Centre

Marnie Weber, UHN and Chair, Specialized Care Centre 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 Public Health

Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health, York Region Public Health

Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Medical Officer of Health, Halton Region Public Health

Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health, Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit