

News Release

Ontario Government Helping Seniors in the South East Avoid Hospital Visits

Nurse-led Teams Improving Care for People in Long-Term Care

NEWS

July 24, 2013

Ontario is improving care for long term care residents and reducing avoidable transfers to hospital in the South East by providing support for four nurses in a nurse-led outreach team in long-term care.

Nurse-led outreach teams are traveling to long-term care homes within the South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to assess the health care needs of residents and provide timely care to stabilize residents or provide appropriate procedures in the home.

Thanks to the work of these nurses, people living in long-term care homes supported by nurse-led outreach teams visit the emergency department for non-urgent issues almost half as often as they did before the teams were put in place.

Supporting nurse-led outreach teams in long-term care is part of the government's [Action Plan for Health Care](#), by ensuring seniors receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

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QUOTES:

“By bringing more health services to residents in long-term care homes, these nurse-led outreach teams are helping to reduce unnecessary ER visits and hospital admissions. Thanks to their work, residents are receiving high quality, patient-centred care.”

— Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

“These teams of nurses are providing care to some of the South East region’s most elderly citizens, reducing the need to visit the ER by providing them with high-quality health services in their long-term care homes.”

— John Gerretsen, MPP for Kingston and the Islands

“The nurse-led outreach team will provide a valuable service to seniors in the South East by enhancing their safety and comfort of living in their long-term care homes while helping to reduce the discomfort and anxiety that may come from unnecessary visits to the ER.”

— Paul Huras, CEO South East LHIN



Ontario

Local Health Integration
Network
Réseau local d'intégration
des services de santé

QUICK FACTS

- South East LHIN is receiving a total of \$335,000 in funding for four nurses.
- Nurse-led outreach teams address non-urgent health problems, determine the need for hospital care and provide a range of services including intravenous therapy, antibiotic management and oxygen administration.
- Nurse-led long-term care outreach teams were launched in 2008 as part of the Ontario government's plans to reduce ER wait times in the province.
- 14 Nurse-led long-term care outreach teams are operating across Ontario.

LEARN MORE

Find out more about [seniors care](#) at home and in the community.

Read about Ontario's [Wait Time Strategy](#).

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