Ontario Health Teams: What are they? How to get involved?

April 23, 2019
New Government Reforms for Ontario’s Health Care

Bill 74, The People’s Health Care Act, 2019
(Passed by the legislature on April 18, 2019)
New Government’s Mandate to Address Ontario’s Health System Capacity Challenges

1. Patients and families are having difficulty navigating the health care system and are waiting too long for care.

2. The health care system is facing capacity pressures and is not appropriately resourced for the projected increase in complex care needs and capacity pressures.

3. Effective coordination is needed at both the system level, and at the point-of-care.

Source: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, 2019.
Vision for a 21st Century Approach to Health Care

Current State

Future State

Seamless Transitions

24/7 Navigation Support

Central Point for Performance Measurement and Quality Improvement

High Use of Digital Tools

Patients receive all their care, including primary care, hospital services, mental health & addictions services, long-term care, and home and community care from one team.

Source: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, 2019.
Ontario Government’s Vision for Health System Redesign

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

“Ontario Health”

“Ontario Health Teams”
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What are Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)?

New model of care where a group of providers (e.g. hospitals, home care, primary care, mental health and others) voluntarily come together and self-organize to deliver a coordinated continuum of care to a defined population or patient segment. Eventually to be funded through integrated funding envelope.

Defined patient population or geography

Single Budget for Pop. Health + Integration

Patient navigation 24/7

Single point of clinical and fiscal accountability***

Outcome-based blended funding model

Risk- and gain-sharing

Shared electronic records

Virtual care

***at maturity
What is Ontario Health?

Integrates multiple provincial agencies into one single agency.

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)

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Funding, Performance Management and Accountability

Quality Standards, Performance Management and Public Reporting

CCO, HQO, Trillium Gift of Life, eHealth, Health Shared Services Ontario, HealthForce Ontario Marketing and Recruitment Agency; Others

“Ontario Health”

Source: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, 2019.
Ontario Health

- Back Office Support and Supply Chain Management
- Digital Health
- System Oversight
- System Management & Performance
- Populations & Clinical Oversight

Source: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, 2019.
Physician Engagement and Leadership: Opportunities

Frequently Asked Questions
What is the current status of OHTs?

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released a Guidance Document for groups of providers and organizations interested in becoming an OHT.

Priority will be given to submissions that include a minimum three of the following:

- primary care,
- hospital,
- home care, and
- community care.

Source: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, 2019.
What will governance look like?  
Who will lead the OHT?

Each OHT will determine the governance structure that best suits its context and needs.

Terms and Conditions for partnership would include:

✓ Conflict and performance management
✓ Information management
✓ Risk and gain sharing
✓ Performance plan

No funding changes in near future; at maturity: one integrated funding envelope.
What does “risk and gain sharing” mean?

• Aligns incentives across different providers and sectors.

• Each partner shares financial gains from efficiencies.

• For OHTs, all savings must be redirected into front line care.

• OMA is seeking further information.
Are OHTs mandatory for Family Physicians? When should I join one?

• At this time, OHT participation is **voluntary**.

• Depends on:
  - interest,
  - existing connections or **partnerships**, and
  - readiness to engage.

**Options for Family Doctors:**

1. Help lead an OHT
2. Participate in an OHT
3. Wait for the time being and remain in the loop
OHTs: Phased Approach Until Broad Provincial Rollout

First Wave of Early Adopter OHTs

Second Wave and Beyond

Vision for Future: all Physicians Part of an OHT
What are the steps involved in forming an OHT?

1. Step 1: Self-assessing readiness
2. Step 2: Validating Provider Readiness*
3. Step 3: Becoming an OHT Candidate
4. Step 4: Becoming a Designated OHT

* Government will provide matchmaking and support to advance readiness
Should I get involved in an OHT?
Considerations for Family Physicians

**Improved Care Delivery**
- more seamless and integrated care experience
- extended suite of supports
- more focus on patient care; less on admin
- new or shared accountabilities
- Risk- and gain-sharing practice autonomy
- governance responsibilities
- contract management
- QI & performance management

**Family Physicians Leading & Affecting Change**
- leadership opportunities for FPs:
  - influence on structure, governance and goals
  - supporting change among peers
- needs to be enabled and equipped with:
  - proper guidance
  - leadership support
Can I join regardless of my practice model?

Yes.

- As per Ministry’s Guidance Document, the criteria for an OHT are not tied to any particular type of practice model.
Scenario 1: If you already have connections across settings and with other providers and are ready to engage.

• You may be a family doctor already functioning with your local 'team' and already know who your local family physician and primary care leadership might be in a potential OHT.

• Family physicians part of a group and considering submitting a self-assessment can contact:
  o The Ontario Medical Association, or
  o The Section on General and Family Practice, or
  o The Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario
Scenario 2: If you are approached to join or considering joining an OHT.

1. Do I have **pre-existing relationships** with partners in other sectors/settings?

2. Same page as the other partners? **Do we share a common vision?**

3. Are **roles** and **responsibilities** of all partners **clear**? **What will each contribute?**
   - Will these roles and responsibilities still need to be defined?
   - Will I have an opportunity to participate in scoping those definitions?

4. Is there a **governance model**? **Is there a family physician leader at the table?**
   - If not, can I scope the model to ensure there are FPs at the table?

5. **How will FPs participate in on-going implementation?**
   - How will I be part of clinical decision-making in the OHT, not just in the set up, but as it rolls out?

6. If I choose **not** to voluntarily participate, **does that mean my patients may not be able to access OHT resources?**

7. **What does success look like for each partner? What are the measures? Outcomes?**

8. **Will my time be compensated?**
   - Others around the planning table are salaried, what if I am not?
Scenario 3: What if I don’t want to be involved?

• Many FPs are not involved in any group governance; you may wish to “wait and see”.

• We encourage you to:
  ➢ keep apprised of what is happening in your community
  ➢ connect with other family physician leaders who may be participating.

• The OCFP can help connect you if you are not certain.
**What are the timelines for OHT rollout?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment process</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open call for self-assessments</td>
<td>April 3, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline to submit self-assessments*</td>
<td>May 15, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selected groups will be invited to submit a full application</td>
<td>June 3, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline to submit full applications</td>
<td>July 12, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Announce Ontario Health Teams</td>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
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<td>The Ministry will continue to accept, assess and evaluate groups</td>
<td>Future deadlines will be</td>
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<tr>
<td>interested in becoming an Ontario Health Team</td>
<td>announced</td>
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*Those deemed to be in the beginning stage of readiness will receive access to supports to continue working towards further readiness.*

Source: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, 2019.
OCFP’s Role

Supporting family physician leadership and seamless comprehensive care for patients across Ontario
Working Collaboratively to Support FPs

1. Family physician leadership and driving change.

2. Advocating for the importance of anchoring OHTs in primary care, through the principles of the Patient’s Medical Home.

3. No practice or patient left behind.
How do I learn more?

• Speak to other family physician leaders in your community about some of the activity already underway or email us at ocfp@ocfp.on.ca.
  o If we do not have an answer to your question right away, we will reach out to the Ministry to try and get it.

• You can also email our colleagues at:
  o The OMA at OMA_OHT@oma.org, or
  o The Section on General and Family Practice, OMA, at OHT@sgfp.ca, or
  o The Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario at info@afhto.ca (if part of a FHT or want to connect with a FHT).
How do I learn more?

The Ministry has provided the following list of resources as background on the OHT process:

• Become an Ontario Health Team

• Ontario Health Teams: Guidance for Health Care Providers and Organizations

• Ontario Health Team Self-Assessment Form

You can also contact the Ministry directly as follows:

• Email OntarioHealthTeams@ontario.ca for any questions related to OHTs and the application process, including self-assessments.

• Sign up to receive the Ministry’s Connected Care Updates, including information about upcoming webinars.
Let us know what you think

The OCFP is committed to supporting you through this change, wherever you are within this process.

We will continue to keep you updated and invite you to share your input and the support you need from us.

Have ideas or questions? Email us at ocfp@ocfp.on.ca.