

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Hamilton Health Team builds on success of local partnerships

HAMILTON, ON – On October 9, 2019, the Hamilton Health Team (HHT) reached an important milestone with the submission of its full application to the Ministry of Health toward becoming a designated Ontario Health Team. Ontario Health Teams are intended to create a seamless and integrated care experience for individuals throughout the province.

The HHT is co-chaired by two patient advocates and includes representation across more than 20 organizations, representing primary care, home care, hospitals, community agencies, long-term care, mental health, Indigenous health, post-secondary education, and the City of Hamilton (Healthy and Safe Communities Department, Public Health and Paramedic Services).

Planning has focused on improving patient outcomes and the patient experience by redesigning how to connect, coordinate, and deliver health and community support services to better serve specific populations, including:

- Children and youth with mental health and addictions concerns
- Adults with mental health and addictions concerns
- Older adults with multiple chronic conditions

Over the past few months, the HHT has engaged more than 200 leaders, community members, patients, and physicians in its work. The HHT hosted a series of workshops designed to build relationships and co-design the application with expertise from health and social service leadership across the continuum of care including patient advisors, public health, primary care providers, community organizations including health, social services, and housing. This work sets the foundation for increasing engagement and collaboration into the future.

Quick Facts

- In May 2019, the HHT submitted an expression of interest to the Ministry of Health to be considered as an early implementer of the Ontario Health Team model. The selection of Ontario Health Team candidates is slated for Fall 2019.
- The HHT grew from the strong collaboration and leadership in health care that is well established in Hamilton. Since 2016, a formalized group of health and social service providers, the Hamilton Community Health Working Group (HCHWG) which was born out of Hamilton's Anchor Institution Leadership Group (HAIL), has been working together to examine how to improve health and well-being of the population in Hamilton through better coordination of services – with a view to making patient care experiences more seamless and integrated.

- Ontario Health Teams are being introduced to provide a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients in their local communities. Under Ontario Health Teams, health care providers (including hospitals, doctors and home and community care providers) will work as one coordinated team - no matter where they provide care.

Additional Resources

[Hamilton Health Team](#)

[Video - Becoming an Ontario Health Team: Patient Engagement](#)

[Ontario Health Teams](#)

Quotes

“The government has given us an opportunity to redesign and rebuild health care and all that goes with it, including social services, in a transformational and ground-up way. I am incredibly proud of the work our team has done in collaboration with a whole range of service providers, patients and partners, which has enabled us to achieve this significant milestone toward improving experiences for all of the people of Hamilton”

John Fleming
Co-Chair
Hamilton Health Team

“As a patient advisor with lived experience, I have an understanding of why patients should be involved in designing the health care system. We know how important integrated care is and that it be seamless across the system. Having patient advisors at the table with health care and social service providers makes a difference because we are working together at the beginning to design the system.

Bernice King
Co-Chair
Hamilton Health Team

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