

Central Local Health Integration Network

Update on the Central LHIN Hospice Palliative Care Action Plan

February 3, 2015 – Through your engagement and support, the Central LHIN is creating a strong, sustainable and seamless hospice palliative care system within the Central LHIN region – to serve us today and into the future. The commitment and innovative thinking of our stakeholders supports the Central LHIN philosophy of **‘Together, We Are Better.’** This communication will summarize the key initiatives underway within our LHIN to advance the Central LHIN Hospice Palliative Care Action Plan:

- An update on the six key action items
- News about the Working Groups
- Status of our education initiatives

We are also sharing and asking for your feedback on the provincial ***Essential Minimum Clinical Standards for Hospice Palliative Care in Ontario.***

Background

All of our actions to date are aligned with **‘Advancing High Quality, High Value Palliative Care in Ontario: Declaration of Partnership and Commitment to Action.’** All LHIN CEOs agreed to the Declaration, and to the common vision for palliative care within our province:

“Adults and children with progressive life-limiting illness, their families and their caregivers will receive the holistic, proactive, timely and continuous care and support they need, through the entire spectrum of care both preceding and following death, to help them live as they choose, and optimize their quality of life, comfort, dignity and security.”

Actions To Date

To help us achieve this vision, the Central LHIN is working in partnership with our funded and non-funded partners. To date, the following has been achieved:

- The Regional Hospice Palliative Care Program Council (RHPCPC) was established in March 2013, to develop recommendations for hospice palliative care within our region.
- July 2014 – the Council completed its work by submitting **‘Final Recommendations for an Integrated, Patient-Centred Regional Hospice Palliative Care System in the Central LHIN Region.’**
- October 2014 – the Central LHIN Board of Directors approved the Central LHIN Hospice Palliative Care Action Plan.
- RHPCPC website resources for hospice palliative care were transitioned to www.centralhealthline.ca (End-of-Life Care section).
- A Working Group comprised of primary care physicians, health care providers and caregivers was established to advance the second of the six key action items in the plan: a single number for crisis and related protocols (see below for full list of action items.) The Working Group includes many of the same members who are also being recommended to address the first of the six key action items: a central point of access for palliative and end of life care. As they moved through the planning process, the Working Group realized that it would be more effective and efficient for patients and families to have one single number for both the central point of access and crisis situations. As a result of this recommendation, the two originally planned Working Groups will become one larger group to bring planning and implementation for both action items 1 and 2 (below) through the final stages. It is expected that this single access point and crisis number will be launched by early April 2015.

Central LHIN Hospice Palliative Care Action Items

1. Central Point of Access for Palliative Care including centralized system access, a patient registry, a bed registry and centralized resource registry.
2. Single number for crisis and related protocols, including protocol development and implementation.
3. Ongoing education including standardized tools that will strengthen the knowledge and capacity of generalists and specialists in all care setting, including primary care.
4. Implementation of service that is aligned with the Health Links regions.
5. Implementation of Patient Experience Surveys in all settings to learn more about how we can continue to improve the patient and caregiver experience in Hospice Palliative Care.
6. Strengthen the capacity of long-term care to deliver Hospice Palliative Care through crisis support, education and linkage to the hubs.

Next Steps

Education

The Central LHIN issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for education in November 2014, to support our Hospice Palliative Care Action Plan. We plan to announce our education provider in a few weeks.

As part of Cancer Care Ontario's (CCO) efforts to increase Ontario's healthcare systems capacity to deliver quality palliative care, the CCO Palliative Care program will host an "all Ontario" Pallium Canada LEAP facilitator training session. Each of Ontario's 14 LHINs is invited to select up to two qualified candidates from our region to attend.

The COO Palliative Care program is committed to advancing Pallium Canada's LEAP program as a component of Ontario's emerging Essential Minimum Clinical Standards for Palliative Care. You can find more information on the criteria for applicants to the LEAP program, and how to apply [here](#).

Your Feedback is Requested – Essential Minimum Clinical Standards

The Clinical Council of the Hospice Palliative Care Provincial Steering Committee is considered a starting point for standardization of clinical direction in the province, while also enabling regional contextualization. The Council is inter-professional and includes 11 palliative care clinicians with diverse and relevant palliative care skills.

This Council has created Essential Minimum Clinical Standards, which you can view [here](#). Feedback related to the PCS can be forwarded to Deanna Bryant, Project Lead, at Deanna.Bryant@cancercare.on.ca or 416-971-9800, ext. 3761. When we receive future direction from the Clinical Council, our next step will be to establish – and communicate – the recommended structures we are putting into place to help us advance and monitor the Action Plan and the new Clinical Standards implementation.

For More Information

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