

## Key Messages

After submitting a Guelph & Area Ontario Health Team Expression of Interest Self-Assessment (to read full report, click [here](#)) in May 2019, the Guelph and Area OHT Planning Table has been invited by the Ontario Ministry of Health to submit a full application (to see OHT Full Application Form, click [here](#)) to be an Ontario Health Team (OHT). Only 31 of the 158 groups in Ontario that submitted a Self-Assessment have been invited to proceed to this stage. To inform the full application submission that is due to the Ministry on October 9th 2019, the Guelph and Area OHT planning partners will be conducting multiple co-design workshops, planning meetings and stakeholder engagement sessions.

To support the full application submission and the continued development of the Guelph and Area OHT, Emmi Perkins has been seconded from the WWLHIN. Emmi brings good knowledge of Guelph, East Wellington and Puslinch health services having played key roles in the Regional Stroke Strategy, Palliative Care and MAID. Most recently, Emmi has been working as Director Quality, Performance & Design with the WWLHIN. Emmi will be working with system partners to collect the information required to complete the full application and to develop the foundational relationships, structures and processes to enable the envisioned, fully mature Guelph and Area OHT.

## Full Application Stage

- Following an assessment of full applications in the Fall of 2019, groups with strong applications will be invited to participate in a site visit with the Ministry of Health to further review plans and capacity.
- It is expected that OHT candidates will work toward implementing all the components of an OHT until all milestones and capabilities of a “mature” OHT are achieved. Once an OHT has reached maturity, it will become a designated OHT. There are currently no mandated timelines for reaching maturity.
- The full application will require Guelph and Area partners to demonstrate transformative strategies, strong governance, implementation plans and resource allocation for the first year of OHT development to meet specific performance targets and milestones.
- The government has indicated that there will be no changes to existing funding or accountability agreements within the first year. OHT Candidates are expected to sign an accountability agreement with MOH for specific services and performance targets.

### Ontario Health Team Model

- An Ontario Health Teams is a group of providers that are clinically and fiscally accountable for delivering a full continuum of care to an attributed population within a specific geographic area. Eventually all health service providers in Ontario will be part of an OHT.
- A key focus of the OHT model is improving the patient experience. Patients will experience improved access to care (e.g., virtual care, text, online bookings), improved transitions and coordination of care, and 24/7 coordination and system navigation. Patients will retain full choice in who they see for their care.
- While health services are at the core an on OHT, they will also include close collaboration with human and social services.
- Year one priorities were identified by the Guelph-Puslinch Leadership Council after engaging patients and providers in a collective data review and priority setting discussion. They include:
  - 1) Developing integrated service teams to support complex and vulnerable clients struggling with Addictions & Mental Health in the community to divert unnecessary ED visits, reduce the length of stay in the ED and also avoid costly repeat ED visits and,
  - 2) Strengthening integrated community and hospital palliative care teams with a focus on reducing ED visits in the last 30 days of life.
- Teams will determine their own governance structures that must include strong clinician and patient representation. There is currently no expectation that organizations in an OHT will change their legal structure. When an OHT reaches “maturity”, a stage at which all the milestones and capacities of an OHT have been achieved, the members must designate a single fund holder.
- The Ministry has indicated that OHT’s can accommodate existing physician remuneration models.
- The second *Premier’s Council Report on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine* which included 10 core recommendations to government is key designing the emerging OHT model and priorities. (To read the full report, click [here](#))

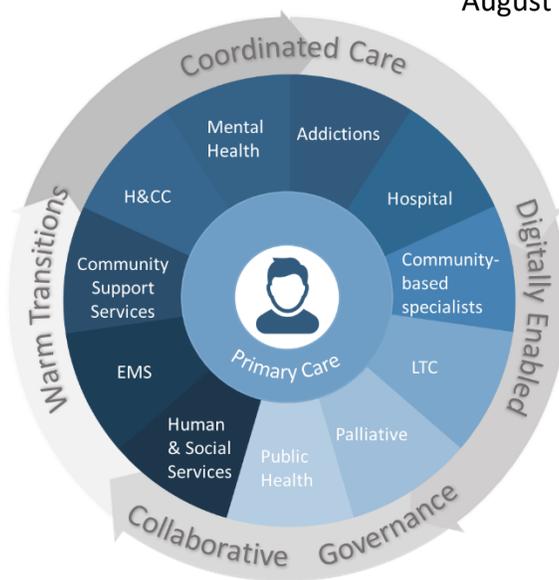


Figure 1 - OHT Model

If you have any questions, concerns or comments OR if you would like to contribute to the Guelph & Area Ontario Health Team, please contact Emmi.Perkins ([emmi.perkins@lhins.on.ca](mailto:emmi.perkins@lhins.on.ca))