

South West
LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK

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APPENDIX A:

Provincial Priorities and Strategic Directions

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Goals

The Ontario government's priorities and strategic direction to the LHIN are driven by the goals to create a patient-centred health system, and to enable a strong and sustainable health system that preserves the commitment to the principles of the *Canada Health Act*, today and in the future.

To achieve these goals, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has launched a number of initiatives, including several aimed at improving the delivery of health care in Ontario:

- *Reducing wait times*: providers will be held accountable to reduce wait times, with a focus on five key areas: cardiac procedures, cancer treatments, hip and knee and cataract surgery, MRIs and CT scans;
- *Improving access to doctors, nurses and other health professionals*: Family Health Teams (FHTs) will be created and the supply of health professionals in local communities will be increased;
- *Making Ontarians healthier by shifting from illness care to health care*: the Ministry will promote healthy lifestyles, revitalize public health and improve community-based care;
- *Building a system to manage the delivery of care*: health care is increasingly complex, and old ways of managing the system cannot always keep up with the changing times;
- *Using information to serve the needs of patients*: information technology can help providers make informed decisions about their patients and improve the experience of people using the system.

Strategic Direction

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is in the process of developing a 10-year Strategic Plan that will provide further context and direction to the LHINs. While this Plan is not due to be released until 2007, the Ministry has set out five draft strategic directions in order to guide LHIN planning and the development of the Integrated Health Service Plan:

- 1. Renew community engagement and partnerships for health care**
 - Ensure that community awareness and engagement remain core elements / processes in local health system planning
 - Build partnerships with other participants in the local health system including Public health and primary care groups
 - Ensure active participation in local community planning processes
- 2. Improve the health status of Ontarians**
 - Improve the health of all Ontarians, especially groups with the poorest health status
 - Enhance uptake of provincial disease screening programs
- 3. Ensure equitable access to health care for all Ontarians no matter where they live**
 - Reduce wait times for key services
 - Reduce barriers to access

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- Ensure appropriate supports to enable Ontarians to age in the most appropriate place
 - Ensure more effective health human resource planning and management

4. Improve the quality of health outcomes

- Place the consumer at the centre of planning and coordination of health services and chronic disease management
- Improve integration and coordination of health services and facilities related to prevention, promotion, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care that is based on the populations' need
- Build leadership and participation in continuous quality improvement of the health system
- Improve safety and effectiveness of health services

5. Establish a framework for a sustainable health system

- Allocate health resources equitably according to the health needs of the population including disease management
- Optimize use of available resources to deliver health care
- Ensure that planning and decision making is based on evidence, analysis of need and value of investment
- Increase efficiency of service delivery
- Increase use of appropriate care settings
- Move toward an electronic health information system
- Ensure financial stability