

Complex Continuing Care and Rehabilitation

What is the Access to Care Complex Continuing Care and Rehabilitation initiative?

Access to Care (ATC) is a province-wide strategy to help people move out of acute hospitals and into other care settings as quickly, smoothly and safely as possible. There are three inter-related initiatives that form ATC in the South West. The Complex Continuing Care and Rehabilitation (CCC/Rehab) initiative will ensure that these valuable services are provided consistently and equitably across the region.

After careful study and discussion with stakeholders in January and February 2012, recommendations regarding realignment and requirement for CCC and Rehab beds will be made in order to better meet the needs of clients and patients. In addition, a new system of access will be developed, with an expanded role for the CCAC.

The CCC/Rehab Steering Committee is co-chaired by St. Joseph's Health Care London (Elaine Gibson) and the South West CCAC (Donna Ladouceur).

The Benefits

This initiative will improve outcomes for patients and families, and for the health system as a whole. It will:

- Develop the CCAC role as the one point of access easier so that patients/clients across the South West get the right care at the right time and place.
- Ensure that admission to CCC/Rehab beds is based on consistent assessment processes and criteria.
- Ultimately, this work will reduce wait times and improve utilization for CCC and rehab beds, and reduce the number of patients designated as ALC.

The Process

The CCC/Rehab initiative will only be successful if all stakeholders are involved in reviewing the existing services and developing and implementing improvements. Here's what's happening:

- Two co-leads, representing the CCAC and the hospitals, have been appointed and are working closely together.
- The co-leads will be holding engagement and planning sessions with hospitals and community providers across the LHIN, to explain the initiative and consult about gaps, needs and ideas for improvement.
- A consulting team, Optimus SBR, has been retained to gather current state bed utilization data from hospitals and develop recommendations about possible realignment of existing services.
- Based on the input from stakeholders, a new system of assessment and referral will be developed to support the CCAC's expanded role as the point of access for CCC/Rehab beds.
- The new approach will be tested at Woodstock General Hospital during spring 2012, and then implemented along with other recommendations during 2012-2013.

All stakeholders are invited to participate in this process. Everyone's knowledge, expertise and wisdom are required to achieve the goals.

For more information, contact the Project Co-Leads:

Mary-Lynn Priestap: marylynn.Priestap@sw.ccac-ont.ca , 519.801.5609

Sherry Frizzell: sherry.frizzell@sjhc.london.on.ca, 519.646.6100 ext. 47382