

Health Links coming to Brampton and Bramalea

For Immediate Release

July 10, 2013 - Personalized care plans and better collaboration among health service providers are just some of the benefits that residents with complex medical needs will receive with the development of two new community Health Links in the Brampton and Bramalea areas.

The Central West LHIN has been given approval by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to move ahead with the Brampton and Bramalea Health Links in partnership with local health service providers.

“We are moving very quickly to ensure these new community Health Links are operational by the fall,” says Scott McLeod, CEO of the Central West LHIN. “Community Health Links will help improve patient transitions within the health care system so they move seamlessly between health service providers and in turn, providers in the circle of care are aware of what else is going on in the patient’s treatment.”

Through the community Health Links concept, health service providers will work together to develop care plans for patients with complex medical needs. They will share information, develop the same understanding of patients’ conditions and establish targets. Typically, these patients are seniors with multiple chronic diseases who end up in the emergency department for care and are often readmitted into the hospital when they could be receiving care in the community.

The Brampton Health Link will be co-led by William Osler Health System and the Wise Elephant Family Health Team and the Bramalea Health Link will be co-led by William Osler Health System and Bramalea Community Health Centre. The community Health Links will work in partnership with the following health service providers to ensure plans are designed to meet individual needs:

- Canadian Mental Health Association – Peel
- Central West Centre for Complex Diabetes Care
- Central West Palliative Care Network
- Central West CCAC
- Holland Christian Homes
- India Rainbow Community Services of Peel
- Peel Senior Link
- Punjabi Community Health Services
- Region of Peel Long Term Care
- Salvation Army
- Supportive Housing in Peel (SHIP)

Each community Health Link will measure results and develop plans to improve access to family care, reduce avoidable ER visits and re-admission to hospitals, reduce referral time to a specialist, and improve the patient’s overall experience through the health care system.

The Central West LHIN has already been approved for two community Health Links which are the Dufferin Area Health Link and the North Etobicoke-Malton-West-Woodbridge Health Link.

Community Health Links falls directly in line with the strategic directions in the Central West LHIN's third Integrated Health Services Plan (IHSP 3) which include improving access to care and streamlining transitions and navigation of the system. The IHSP 3 was developed after extensive consultation with residents who indicated what they most wanted to see within the local health care system.

Community Health Links are part of the provincial government's Action Plan for Health Care, by delivering faster access and a stronger link to family health care, and providing the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

QUOTES:

"The Central West LHIN is truly excited that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has approved the Health Links in Brampton and Bramalea. Soon, the Central West LHIN will have the entire catchment area covered by community Health Links, which will put citizens at the centre of health care."

- Maria Britto, Chair, Central West LHIN

"Bramalea Community Health Centre is pleased to be an active participant in development of community Health Links in the Central West LHIN. Through community Health Links, providers from various parts of the health care system will collaborate to deliver comprehensive services to patients with complex health issues. Bramalea CHC is confident that the Bramalea Health Link will serve to increase the quality of health care offered to residents in our communities."

- Mayo Hawko, Executive Director, Bramalea Community Health Centre

"We know that complex patients and seniors rely on significant support from multiple parts of the health system, including the hospital, to help manage their health. By coordinating our efforts, we can provide more appropriate supports in the community. At Osler, one of our strategic directions is to strengthen partnerships across the continuum of care, and community Health Links is a great opportunity to do just that."

- Matthew Anderson, President and CEO of William Osler Health System

"We are very excited by the opportunity to be a part of the initiative to improve the coordination of care for patients in our region. This will help our goal of preventing patients and their families from falling through the cracks."

- Dr. Sanjeev Goel, Lead Physician, Wise Elephant Family Health Team

"Today's announcement of the Brampton and Bramalea Health Links is great news for the residents of Peel. It will allow healthcare professionals and institutions to better interact with one another and will help patients to navigate the complexities of our health system. Our government has worked tirelessly to help ensure the health of the residents of this city. Whether it is the new hospital, redevelopment of the old Peel Memorial site or investments like community Health Links, we are working hard to improve the lives of all Ontarians."

- MPP Linda Jeffrey, Brampton-Springdale

"The Brampton Health Link will make it easier for patients with complex medical needs to navigate the health care system and get the care they need. More personalized care will mean quicker access to the right treatment the first time."

- MPP Vic Dhillon, Brampton West

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