

Helping Older Ontarians Get Home Sooner

McGuinty Government Improving Long-Term Care

NEWS

January 14, 2013

Ontario is helping seniors transition home sooner from the hospital while also providing higher levels of care to long-term care residents with complex needs.

Post-hospital, restorative care will be provided through 250 more short-stay beds in long-term care homes across the province – a 50 per cent increase – helping about 1,500 seniors annually. This will help older Ontarians who require additional care after hospital treatment to return home sooner

Ontario is also making new investments to provide higher levels of care to long-term care residents by:

- Training 200 personal support workers to help care for residents with dementia and challenging behaviours
- Improving resident safety, quality of care and abuse prevention through new staff training and development
- Providing specialized supplies and equipment for patients with complex needs

These new measures respond to recommendations that relate to the changing needs of Ontario's long-term care environment from [Dr. Samir Sinha's recently-released report on seniors](#) and to the recommendations of the Long-Term Care Task Force on Resident Care and Safety.

Investing in long-term care will help ensure Ontario residents have access to the right care, at the right time and in the right place, which is a key commitment of the McGuinty government's [Action Plan for Health Care](#).

QUOTES

"We're listening to Dr. Sinha's advice with new measures to transform the role that our long-term care homes play in Ontario's health care system. They are helping more seniors transition back to their homes, to where they want to be, while also providing a higher level of care to those residents with complex needs."

— Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"With the number of older Ontarians expected to double over the next 20 years, we need to take steps today to address current and future needs of them in our long-term care homes. Today's announcement will help us do just that. It will help more older Ontarians get home, where they want to be, while ensuring that those of them who require a higher level of care have access to the care and resources they require as they age."

— Dr. Samir Sinha

"I am particularly pleased to see the government's investment in Behavioural Supports Ontario, staff training and development. These are measures the Long-Term Care Task Force felt were very important in contributing to reducing incidents of abuse and neglect in long term care homes."

— Donna Fairley, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Residents' Councils

QUICK FACTS

- Convalescent care beds are short-stay beds that provide care to people who need time to recover strength, endurance and functioning following treatment in a hospital or from the community.
- Funding for long-term care has increased from \$2.12 billion in 2003/04 to \$3.76 billion in 2012/13.
- The Long-Term Care Homes Act came into force on July 1, 2010 and is now the single legislative authority for safeguarding resident rights, improving the quality of care and improving the accountability of long-term care homes for the care, treatment and well-being of residents.
- The McGuinty government has created over 9,200 new long-term beds since 2003.

LEARN MORE

Find out more about [seniors' care](#) in Ontario.

Read more about [Transforming Long-Term Care](#).

Read [highlights and key recommendations from *Living Longer, Living Well*](#).

Read Ontario's [Action Plan for Health Care](#).

For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

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Transforming Long-Term Care

January 14, 2013

Ontario is transforming the role of long-term care to help older Ontarians get home sooner while providing better care to long-term care residents with complex needs.

These new measures respond to recommendations in Dr. Samir Sinha's report on the changing needs of long-term care in Ontario and the report of the Long-Term Care Task Force on Resident Care and Safety.

Convalescent Care Program

Convalescent care beds are short-stay beds that help deliver care to people who need time to recover strength, endurance and functioning following treatment in a hospital. These beds also provide respite care, helping support informal caregivers while bridging seniors in the transition from hospital to home.

Up to 250 new convalescent care beds will improve access to restorative care for older Ontarians and will help approximately 1,500 seniors annually who are waiting in hospitals or in their community for restorative care. This represents an increase of 50 per cent, bringing the total number of convalescent care beds in Ontario to 750. This increase in short-stay beds will help older Ontarians stay healthy and independent at home and in the community, avoiding or delaying permanent admission to long-term care.

Increasing the number of short stay beds in long-term care is one of the recommendations in Dr. Sinha's report.

Behavioural Supports Ontario

Behavioural Supports Ontario enhances the health care services of seniors across Ontario who live and cope with responsive behaviours associated with dementia, mental illness, addictions and other neurological conditions. Behavioural Supports Ontario is improving service delivery and easing the strain on the health care system by reducing resident transfers between long-term care homes and hospitals.

To improve behavioural supports service delivery in long-term care, the McGuinty government is investing in the training and recruitment of 200 personal support workers who will assist in supporting people with challenging and complex behaviours in long-term care homes and help these residents with the activities of daily living.

Additional training opportunities through the behavioural supports initiative for long-term care staff is a recommendation in Dr. Sinha's report and the Long-Term Care Task Force report.

Staff Training and Development

Ontario is supporting training for long-term care staff to improve care provided to residents. With this investment, long-term care homes will deliver staff training and development opportunities that focus on:

- Improving resident safety
- Preventing abuse and neglect
- Advancing quality of care for residents with responsive behaviours or other specialized care needs, including residents with palliative or end-of-life care needs

Maximizing the knowledge and skills of long-term care staff with additional training opportunities and quality improvement initiatives is one of the recommendations in Dr. Sinha's report and the Long-Term Care Task Force report.

Specialized Supplies and Equipment

Ontario is helping long-term care homes purchase specialized equipment to provide safer and higher quality care for residents requiring specialized care and services, including:

- Supplies to prevent skin breakdown
- Wound care supplies
- IV pumps and supplies
- Palliative care equipment and supplies
- Specialized feeding equipment
- Bariatric beds and lifts
- Wheelchairs

Helping long-term care homes to provide higher levels of care to individuals with complex care needs is one of the recommendations in Dr. Sinha's report.

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