

Expanding Community Physiotherapy Clinic Services

June 19, 2013

On April 18, 2013, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care announced that the government would expand access to publicly funded clinic-based physiotherapy services in more communities across Ontario.

A key objective of the program is to expand access to publicly funded physiotherapy services to communities that currently are underserved, to ensure these seniors and eligible patients received physiotherapy assessment, diagnosis and treatment.

Call for Applications

The Ontario government is issuing a Call for Applications to physiotherapy clinic owners who are interested in participating in the new funding model for community-based physiotherapy clinics.

Physiotherapy providers interested in providing clinic-based services may view the application form and guidelines at www.ontario.ca/physiotherapy.

The ministry will accept completed electronic applications until July 7, 2013.

The selection of successful applicants and the funding assigned will reflect community needs and priorities as determined by the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

Under this new funding model, the government will enter into individual funding agreements with physiotherapy clinics selected through this Call for Applications process.

Funding for Community-Based Clinics

The fee-for-service funding model for physiotherapy clinic services is being replaced with a new funding model where clinic-based physiotherapy will be funded under transfer payment agreements with the ministry.

Physicians and nurse practitioners will refer eligible patients to selected clinics where they will receive an Episode of Care.

This service provides goal-oriented physiotherapy treatment to a patient with a specific health condition, over a period of time with a defined health outcome. This includes assessing, diagnosing, treating and discharging the patient.

The number, frequency and duration of visits offered during each Episode of Care will vary by patient need and will be determined by the treating physiotherapist using his/her professional and clinical judgement. While there is no fixed limit to the number of Episodes of Care a person may receive, a separate referral from a physician or Nurse Practitioner is required for each Episode of Care.

Funding amounts for each clinic will be regularly reconciled against the actual total number of Episodes of Care – based on the required reporting of treatments and clinical information of the patient.

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