

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**

Assistant Deputy Minister  
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**Ministère des Soins de longue durée**

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**March 24, 2020**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Regional Leads and Bill Hatanaka

**FROM:** Brian Pollard  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Operations Division  
Ministry of Long-Term Care

**SUBJECT:** **Amendments to Ontario Regulation 79/10 under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* related to the COVID-19 Pandemic – Admissions and Discharge**

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The Ministry of Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health are working closely with our partners in both the long-term care sector and other health care sectors to ensure the continued safety and well-being of residents, families and staff. We have taken proactive measures, and we continue to look at all possible courses of action to limit the spread of COVID-19.

As you may be aware, hospitals are experiencing severe capacity pressures and there are alternate level-of-care patients awaiting discharge to a long-term care home. In response, the Ministry has amended provisions in Ontario Regulation 79/10 (O. Reg 79/10) under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* pertaining to admissions and discharge from homes during the pandemic.

**Effective March 24, 2020, amendments to O. Reg 79/10 will:**

1. Facilitate placement in long-term care homes to help address severe capacity pressures faced by public hospitals through a truncated placement process.
  - These applicants may be placed in preferred accommodation if they requested basic accommodation and the licensee must offer the accommodation as basic accommodation. In these circumstances, the Ministry will reimburse licensees for the cost-difference.
  - Permitting placement of people waiting for basic into preferred would help move patients out of hospital beds faster.
2. Support placement co-ordinators and long-term care homes in being able to facilitate placement of applicants seeking long-term care home placement from outside of a hospital through more nimble placement requirements.

3. Prevent community applicants from being penalized for refusing to move into a long-term care home during the pandemic by eliminating the requirement that they be removed from all waiting lists (hospital applicants are already exempt from this requirement).
4. Enable current residents to leave a long-term care home if they wish to do so due to COVID-19 and expedite their return to the long-term care home when they need to go back. The resident will be discharged and the bed will then be available for occupancy by another person.

These changes provide a framework for long-term care home staff and placement co-ordinators to assess, admit, re-admit and discharge residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Full details about these amendments can be found in the FAQs included with this package.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Licensing and Policy Branch of the Long-Term Care Operations Division at [LTC.Info@ontario.ca](mailto:LTC.Info@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to address the COVID-19 emergency.



Brian Pollard  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Long-Term Care

cc:

Mr. Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care  
Mr. Dan Kaniuk, Chair, Board of Directors, Ontario Long-Term Care Home Association  
Ms. Jane Sinclair, Chair, Board of Directors, Advantage Ontario  
Ms. Michelle-Ann Hylton, Director, Licensing and Policy Branch  
Ms. Stacey Colameco, Director, Long-Term Care Inspections Branch  
Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division

Attachments:  
Frequently Asked Questions