Form 4.5

Entering into Accountability Agreements under the *Connecting Care Act*

When Ontario Health proposes to provide funding to a hospital, the *Connecting Care Act* requires Ontario Health to enter into a service accountability agreement (HSAA) with the hospital.

The scope of what can be included in a service accountability agreement is quite broad, and includes performance goals and objectives respecting roles and responsibilities, service quality, accessibility of services, related health human resources, shared and collective responsibilities for health system outcomes, consumer and population health status, value for money, consistency, and other matters that may be prescribed by regulation.

Ontario Health must provide notice to the hospital that it intends to enter into a SAA. After being notified, the hospital and Ontario Health must negotiate the terms and conditions of the SAA.

The negotiation period for entering into a SAA is 90 days. If the parties have not negotiated an agreement within that period, Ontario Health may deliver a notice of offer to the hospital setting out the terms of the proposed SAA if it is in the public interest to do so. Ontario Health and the hospital must continue their negotiations to reach an agreement as soon as practicable after Ontario Health sends the notice of offer.

If Ontario Health and the hospital are unable to reach an agreement within 60 days after Ontario Health sends the notice of offer, the notice of offer is deemed to be the SAA, with which the hospital must comply.

Ontario Health and the hospital may agree in writing to modify any of the provisions in the SAA. If they do, they must notify the Minister that oversees the administration of the *CAA* of the agreement.

The chart set out below illustrates the process and time periods for entering into a SAA.

**Negotiation Period**

**90 days for a first SAA negotiation**

Agreement reached

Agreement NOT reached

**SAA complete**

**Ontario Health delivers notice of offer to hospital**

**60 days for second SAA negotiation**

Agreement reached

**SAA complete**

Agreement NOT reached

**Notice of offer *deemed* to be SAA**

**SAA complete, subject to modification by consent**