

Benefits of OHTs for specialists

Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) are a new way of planning and delivering patient-centred care that will meaningfully impact the care experience for both you and your patients.

Some benefits are immediate, while others will be experienced when OHTs are fully developed.

Ontario Health Teams will have many benefits for specialists. OHTs have the potential to:

- 1 Improve your work experience**
- 2 Help you deliver enhanced patient care**
- 3 Help you develop stronger relationships with other health professionals**
- 4 Provide you with the opportunity to influence how care is delivered in your region**
- 5 Give you more opportunities for learning and leadership development**

Ontario Health Teams are a model of integrated care. OHTs bring together clinicians, including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and interprofessional health teams, community programs and services, along with patients and their families to focus on a shared purpose: to provide co-ordinated, effective, efficient and high-quality care to patients. OHTs are intended to be designed together with physicians, patients and families to ensure that they are truly meeting patients' needs.

“This is an opportunity to get involved and create the healthcare system that you want”

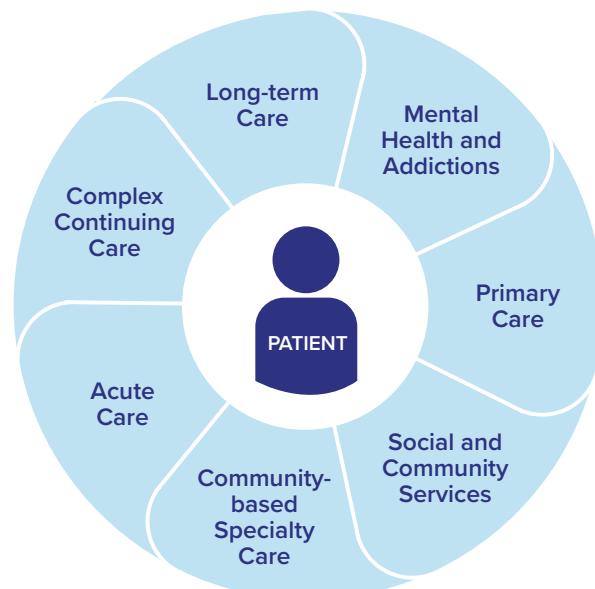
-Dr. Darren Cargill, palliative care physician, Windsor Essex OHT

“Physicians will be able to practice at the top of their scope of skills in a more efficient way”

-Dr. David Pichora, orthopedic surgeon, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington OHT

“It will allow me to connect with family doctors in a way in which I don’t have access to them on a regular basis now”

-Dr. Sandip SenGupta, pathologist, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington OHT



■ Specialists

1 OHTs will help improve your work experience:

- Centralized referral lists and processes mean more **accurate referrals** the first time with the right information
- Better integration among care providers will lead to **stronger connections** with primary care providers, other specialists, interprofessional health teams, home care services, mental health and addiction services and other local supports that will help you better manage complex patients
- More seamless co-ordination at the system level will lead to **shorter wait times**
- IT solutions will enable **digital communication** among all members of the care team and reduce your administrative workload.

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If we can improve things like unnecessary returns to the emergency department and rehospitalizations by having an effective, network of care in the community, it's going to make the life of the specialist better. They'll know that there are supports for their patients out in the community. They'll be able to spend their time looking after the next patient instead of worrying so much about the last one.”

-Dr. David Pichora, orthopedic surgeon, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington OHT

2 OHTs will help you deliver enhanced patient care:

- Getting the right kinds of referrals means you will have **shorter wait times**
- Support from family doctors to co-manage patients where appropriate will lead to better patient care and free up time for you to see **more patients**
- Better co-ordination between health sectors and care providers will enable a **better experience** for both patient and provider
- A population health approach to planning and delivering care will result in more **equitable access** to care and services
- Centralized digital records will give you access to co-ordinated, comprehensive information about your patients and help you **avoid unnecessary repeat tests and referrals**.

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The development of an OHT will result in clear referral pathways. In other words, the family physicians will know which specialists are interested in looking after a particular type of patient.

In an OHT you're truly co-managing the patient with the family doctor, providers are working together on a plan of care, and we are all focused on improving care and patient outcomes.”

-Dr. Robert McKelvie, cardiologist, Western OHT

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3 OHTs will help you develop stronger relationships:

- Stronger relationships with family doctors have **many benefits** including better patient management through shared care, the right referrals the first time and improved transitions in care
- Built-in networks**, such as physician associations, including both family doctors and specialists will allow you to build strong and valuable relationships with your peers that can lead to more seamless patient care.

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Right now, physician groups function in silos. Probably the best example I can give you is palliative care and nephrology. We know that patients that go on chronic long-term dialysis with renal failure should be hooked up with local palliative care services, but right now there is very little interaction between our palliative care group and our nephrology group. My hope is that with OHTs we will have a much better working relationship with each other.”

-Dr. Darren Cargill, palliative care physician,
Windsor Essex OHT

OHTs will help you develop stronger relationships with:

- Family doctors
- Other community- and hospital-based specialists
- The physician community as a whole
- Long-term care

- Mental health and addiction services
- Community support services
- Interprofessional health professionals

4 OHTs will allow you to influence decision-making:

- Opportunities for physicians to have **meaningful input** into delivery of care and decision-making at the local level
- Dedicated positions with compensation for physicians at the OHT leadership table will ensure the **physician perspective** is considered in all regional decisions
- Being part of a physician network or association will allow physicians to come together and have a stronger, more **unified voice**.

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As a physician, I often feel like I've got important ideas about how we should provide care to patients, and physicians don't always feel like they've got an avenue to be heard and to play a leadership role. We're trying to help redesign care for the future, so this should be a great opportunity.”

-Dr. David Pichora, orthopedic surgeon, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington OHT

■ Specialists

5 Give you more opportunities for learning:

- Formal and informal opportunities for physicians to **learn from each other** through local physician associations and networks, communities of practice and other groups
- More time for patient care will lead to **experiential learning**
- Opportunities for **leadership training** and support may be available for physicians taking on leadership roles within the OHT
- Cultural competency** training opportunities and experiences working with Indigenous partners in the community can provide you with greater understanding of the barriers faced by some of your patients.

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I envision an OHT as a community of communities with multiple teams working together and working effectively so that everybody can feed off of each other and learn on a daily basis.”

-Dr. Sandip SenGupta, pathologist, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington OHT

To get involved

As a specialist, getting involved early will allow you to stay informed about what is being developed and implemented in your region. If you choose, you can also participate in the co-design of the OHT.

To learn more about your local OHT and how to get involved, contact your OMA Regional Manager: www.OMA.org/regional-managers

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I wanted to get involved to participate and lead system change within our area. It's a great opportunity to get the people around the table – family doctors and other specialists – and talk about how we could better serve the patients in our community and how we could better interact together.”

-Dr. Robert McKelvie, cardiologist, Western OHT