



**Update on Home and Community Care Restructuring**

The Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) has put out an [update](https://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/connectedcare/oht/docs/OHT_path_forward.pdf?utm_source=Connected+Care+Updates&utm_campaign=062dd012e1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_CC_15102019_EN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bb924cd748-062dd012e1-55770241) regarding Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), the loose coalitions of health care providers that the provincial PC government sees as taking over responsibility for home and community care oversight. Here are the highlights:

* 54 OHTs are now approved.
* A Common Structure for OHTs: This has been absent to date. A major new step here is the **creation of new, not-for-profit corporations for** **each OHT** to manage and coordinate OHT activities.
* OHTs will identify an Operational Support Provider (OSP).This will replace the in-kind contributions made to date by OHT member organizations. It appears this will be for things like back-office functions.
* The document concludes that it remains committed to integrating home and community care within the OHT model and will “share additional information in the coming months related to the modernization of home and community care delivery models”.

Following this, the provincial government also released a new mandate letter for Ontario Health, the organization that funds various health care provider organizations. The letter directed Ontario Health to:

d. Continue to work with the Ministry of Health and Home and Community Care Support Services to:

i. plan for and implement approved transitions of resources, functions and responsibilities for home and community care service provision, including the management of contracted service providers, referrals, and placements;

ii. engage the Ministry of Long-Term Care regarding implications for the transition of long-term care placement functions now performed by Home and Community Care Support Services;

iii. evaluate and update templates for home and community care client services contracts, and provide guidance on their implementation and management; and,

iv. implement changes to the pre-qualification, provider selection and contracts.

In other words, the government is still planning to “transition” Home and Community Care Support Service work for home care oversight and LTC functions. They are also planning to implement changes to home care contracts.