



**The Regional  
Municipality  
of Durham**

Social Services  
Department

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April 29, 2021

Dear Family Member,

**Re: Amendment to Emergency Order: Transfer of Hospital Patients under the  
*Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act***

As many of you have already heard on April 28, 2021 the Ministry of Health announced an amendment to the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* to allow for the safe and respectful transfer of hospital patients to LTC without obtaining consent from patients or their substitute decision-maker. This amendment was made as a result of the unprecedented pressures currently being faced by the health care system in the COVID-19 pandemic and specifically in this third wave. This amendment is one measure that the Ministry is implementing to assist Ontario public hospitals to enhance the provision of patient care during this time of crisis.

**When will this measure be used?**

The Ministry and Ontario Health have confirmed that this measure will only be used as a last resort option to increase capacity within the hospitals. This means that only the hospitals with severe capacity pressures will be able to access this option and strict guidelines will need to be followed. This measure is anticipated to be used in rare occasions only. Furthermore, the Ministry has indicated that the transfer can only occur if the attending clinician is satisfied the patient can receive the care they require in the home and the home is in agreement that they can safely manage their care.

**What does this mean to LTC?**

LTC homes will continue to work with hospitals and the Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS) agencies to ensure safe and appropriate transfers of patients from hospitals to LTC homes. As per the usual process, these patients have been assessed for discharge and have been determined to require and be eligible for LTC services. It is important to note that homes must agree to the transfer to ensure that the patient's care can be safely managed in the home.

**Next Steps:**

As critical system partners, all LTC homes in the province have been requested to submit admission plans to the Ministry, Ontario Health and HCCSS prior to this amendment coming into force. The four Region of Durham homes have submitted their plans, based on each home's current capacity and with a focus of safe admissions to our homes for all our residents and staff. We will continue to work with our healthcare system partners to ensure all patients and residents receive the care they require in the most appropriate settings.

If you have any question, please contact the home Administrator or me.

*Laura MacDermaid*