



**Jeff Leal, M.P.P.**  
Peterborough

## **Improving Care for High-Needs Patients in Peterborough**

*McGuinty Government Linking Health Providers, Offering Patients More Co-ordinated Care*

December 7, 2012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NEWS**

Ontario is improving co-ordination of care for high-needs patients such as seniors and people with complex conditions through the creation of the Peterborough Health Link in Peterborough.

One of 19 across the province, this new Health Link will encourage greater collaboration and co-ordination between a patient's different health care providers as well as the development of personalized care plans. This will help improve patient transitions within the system and help ensure patients receive more responsive care that addresses their specific needs with the support of a tightly knit team of providers.

The Peterborough Health Link will be coordinated by the Central East CCAC, and will be working with partners including:

- Peterborough Family Health Team
- Peterborough Regional Health Centre
- Nurse Practitioner-Lead Clinic (VON 360)
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Community Care Peterborough
- Fairhaven
- FourCAST Addiction Services
- St. John's Centre Retirement Home
- Alzheimer Society
- Hospice Peterborough
- St. Joseph's at Fleming
- VON Peterborough Branch
- And other local health care partners

Each Health Link will measure results and develop plans to improve access to family care, reduce avoidable ER visits and re-admission to hospitals, reduce referral time to a specialist, and improve the patient's overall experience through the health care system.

Health Links are part of our government's Action Plan for Health Care, by delivering faster access and a stronger link to family health care, and providing the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

### **QUOTES**

"The Peterborough Health Link will make a big difference for patients – particularly seniors – in our community. I'm so pleased to see our dedicated local health care professionals coming together to make this kind of coordinated patient care possible, and to make our health care system even better."

- Jeff Leal, MPP



**Jeff Leal, M.P.P.**  
Peterborough

Through partnerships, collaboration and integration, the Central East LHIN has made tremendous gains over the last few years in fulfilling our mission, to lead the creation of an integrated sustainable health care system. We welcome the opportunities that Health Links provide to strengthen and grow established partnerships that will benefit local residents and their caregivers.

- Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN

“The Central East CCAC is pleased to be a member of the Peterborough Health Link initiative in the Central East LHIN, this is a positive and exciting opportunity to further strengthen the integration of care provided by our regional health care partners in the interest of the patients we all serve. Critical to the success of this initiative is the ability to build on the strong history of collaboration in our area working to ensure that our patients experience better healthcare outcomes while achieving better value-for-money”.

- Donald M. Ford, CEO Central East CCAC

“Health Links will break down barriers for Ontarians, making access to health care easier and less complicated. By encouraging local health providers to work together to co-ordinate care for individual patients, we’re ensuring our most vulnerable patients – seniors and those with complex conditions – get the care they need and don’t fall between the cracks.”

—Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

## **QUICK FACTS**

- 19 early-adopter communities have been chosen to launch the first Health Links and will submit plans to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term within the next 60 days. Over time, Health Links will be expanded across the province.
- A Health Link may include family doctors, specialists, hospitals, home care, long-term care and community support agencies. Each Health Link will have one of its providers play a co-ordinating role.
- Each Health Link will work with its LHIN to develop personalized care plans for seniors and other patients with complex conditions, and to increase the number of those patients with a primary care provider.
- Patients with complex conditions include seniors, those with multiple chronic diseases, and those with mental illness and addictions.
- A recent study found that 75 per cent of seniors with complex conditions who are discharged from hospital receive care from six or more physicians and 30 per cent get their drugs from three or more pharmacies.
- Complex patients represent up to five per cent of Ontario’s population, but use two-thirds of the health care budget.

## **CONTACT**

Matt Stoeckle  
Jeff Leal’s Office  
705-742-3777