

Facilitating Collaboration and Integrated Care

A Home Care Policy Lens

The Canadian Home Care Association (CHCA) defines home care as: “an array of services for people of all ages, provided in the home and community setting, that encompasses health promotion and teaching, curative intervention, end-of-life care, rehabilitation, support and maintenance, social adaptation and integration and support for the family caregiver.”

Why develop a Home Care Policy Lens (HCPL)?

The aging population, changes within the hospital system and medical advances are transforming health care in Canada – the delivery and setting of care. Our approach to health care delivery is no longer reactive and episodic, but instead has evolved to one that is proactive, focusing on health promotion, chronic disease management and independence at home. While governments across Canada have recognized the value of home care within an integrated health care system, the shift to providing care closer to home is not always supported with appropriate resources to meet increasing demand. Through the use of the HCPL governments and stakeholders will be able to determine the “appropriate” role and resources for the home care sector in integrated service delivery models.

What is the Home Care Policy Lens (HCPL)?

The HCPL is a decision support tool that will support planning activities and program / model development. Through the use of the HCPL, policy planners and program managers will have access to a guideline that poses a series of critical questions that address key issues and challenges facing the home and continuing care sector. The HCPL will support policy options and increase understanding of the unique dynamics and context of providing care in the community.

Who will use the Home Care Policy Lens?

A wide range of stakeholders will be involved in the develop of the HCPL and the tool will be shared with stakeholders from governments, health organizations, hospitals, long term care facilities, hospice and respite care and primary health care teams.

How will the Home Care Policy Lens be developed?

The CHCA project team will use a collaborative approach to developing the HCPL through consultations and active engagement of stakeholders in the acute care, primary health care, long term care and home care sectors.

What impact will the Home Care Policy Lens have?

The Home Care Policy lens project will help achieve the CHCA's vision of an integrated system that provides accessible, responsive services which enable people to safely stay in their homes with dignity and independence and quality of life. Specifically, it will:

- Increase awareness and understanding of the home care sector's capacity and capabilities within an integrated health care system.
- Provide a tool to facilitate collaboration and joint planning for integrated models of care including home care.
- Support the goal of delivering the right care in the right place at the right time.

When will the Home Care Policy Lens be available?

The project commences in February 2012 and finishes in March 2013.

Questions / Information?

Contact the Canadian Home Care Association national office at 289-290-4389.