

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**

Office of the Associate Deputy  
Minister, Long-Term Care Policy  
and Pandemic Response

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**Ministère des Soins de longue durée**

Bureau du sous-ministre associée  
politique et Intervention contre la  
pandémie pour les soins de longue durée

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Toronto ON M5G 1S5



December 16, 2021

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Long-Term Care Home Licensees

Chief Executive Officers of Ontario Public Hospitals

Mark Walton, Senior Vice-President, COVID-19  
Pandemic Response, Ontario Health

Cynthia Martineau, Chief Executive Officer, Home and  
Community Care Support Services

**FROM:** Erin Hannah  
Associate Deputy Minister  
LTC Policy and Pandemic Response

**SUBJECT:** Extending the Co-Payment Waiver Program

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On April 23, 2021, the ministry introduced the co-payment waiver program for long-term care residents admitted from hospitals as a temporary, emergency measure to support hospital capacity at the peak of the third wave. The program waives the co-payment for patients in Alternate Level of Care (ALC) beds in hospitals who agree to move to a long-term care home that is not their first-choice home.

Last month, we communicated that the temporary co-payment waiver program would wind down as of December 15, 2021. Residents admitted to a long-term care home from a hospital on or before December 14, 2021 and otherwise eligible for the co-payment waiver program would continue to have their fees waived until they are offered a spot in their preferred home or exit the long-term care system, per the existing eligibility criteria.

Today, based on the emerging evidence related to the COVID-19 Omicron variant of concern, the health care system is preparing for an increase in cases and working to ensure there is capacity in hospitals. Given this, to help support capacity in hospitals we are extending the co-payment waiver program past the original end date of December 15, 2021.

Placement coordinators should continue to advise ALC patients of the co-payment waiver if they are offered and accept a bed in a home that is not their first choice. In the meantime, the province will continue to monitor COVID-19 activity in the health and long-term care sectors and will communicate any further updates regarding the continuation or sunsetting of the program in a timely manner.

We continue to be grateful to all of you for your ongoing support and dedication to patients and residents especially during this uncertain time. We have attached some Key Messages and Qs and As to help explain this update. As always, we are available should you have any questions. The team can be reached by emailing [MLTCPandemicResponse@ontario.ca](mailto:MLTCPandemicResponse@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Erin Hannah  
Associate Deputy Minister  
LTC Policy and Pandemic Response

c: Nancy Matthews, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)  
Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health (MOH)  
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery Division, Ministry of Health (MOH)  
Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capacity Planning and Analytics Division, MOH/MLTC  
Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health  
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Jeff Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister, LTC Pandemic Response, MLTC  
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Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Health Services, MOH  
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Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
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