

Newsletter Article

Headline: **The OPCN Unveils a Plan for Better Access**

The [Ontario Palliative Care Network Action Plan 1: 2017 – 2020](#) outlines how the partners will work together and sets out some of the specific actions needed to make sure that high quality hospice palliative care services are readily available.

Based on the goals of The Declaration of Partnership and the 2014 Auditor General of Ontario Report, this plan will help regions understand where the OPCN is headed and how we will all collaborate to put the plan into action.

Engagement with Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) CEOs, CCO Regional Vice Presidents and OPCN Advisory Council members, along with regional leadership consultations completed over the summer of 2017 provided key input into the plan. More than 200 stakeholders, including Patient and Family Advisors, were engaged in the development of this plan.

“My hope [is that there will be] a systematic approach to the delivery of palliative care services so that whenever anyone in Ontario is nearing the end of curative treatments, they will have a clear and easy pathway to the palliative supports they need,” says Valerie M., an OPCN Patient and Family Advisor and member of the of the OPCN’s Partnership Advisory Council.

The Action Plan comprises of a list of proposed 38 actions that have been organized into the following seven themes:

- A. Enhancing Patient and Caregiver Engagement in Hospice Palliative Care
- B. Aligning the Planning for Hospice Palliative Care Across the Province
- C. Enabling Early Identification of those Who Would Benefit from Hospice Palliative Care
- D. Establishing Palliative Models of Care to Increase Access and Enable Adoption of the Quality Standard
- E. Identifying and Connecting Hospice Palliative Care Providers
- F. Building Provider Competencies in Hospice Palliative Care
- G. Measuring and Reporting on our Progress

Each partner has a critical role to play: CCO hosts the OPCN Secretariat and is overseeing quality improvement and performance management using evidence-based guidance documents and data assets; the Local Health Integration Networks are leading the implementation of initiatives at the local level and continue to strengthen local engagement with Francophone and First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities; Health Quality Ontario is leading the development of the Palliative Care Quality Standard as well as providing expertise in public reporting and quality improvement; and, the Quality Hospice Palliative Care Coalition of Ontario, with Hospice Palliative Care Ontario as its secretariat, is leading engagement with health service providers, and supporting patient and caregiver education. Joining our efforts will be the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, care providers, community organizations, volunteers, families and loved ones, and the many other individuals and organizations who are dedicated to improving palliative care services.

The Action Plan is posted on the [OPCN website](#) and can be accessed here <https://www.ontariopalliativecarenetwork.ca/sites/opcn/files/OPCNActionPlan1.pdf>