



MAY 2024

- PRIMARY CARE VISION 2027
- PCN GUIDANCE FROM OH
- CANCER SCREENING
- IPC FUNDING
- EAST REGION VIRTUAL CARE CLINIC
- AND MORE

Kaniatarowanéhne Kaniatarí:io Ata'karitéhtshera Raotinèn:ra

## The Great River Insider

A Newsletter for Primary Care Providers of the Great River Ontario Health Team (OHT)

Join us on June 14th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Bonnie Glen Pavilion in Alexandria to begin to co-design our Primary Care Vision 2027. On the agenda:

- AI Scribe demo/discussion with a local Family Doctor
- How to get health service navigation off your desk?
- Chronic disease management services – do you want in?
- Reducing administrative burdens and office costs
- Facilitated session to understand which of your many pain points need priority attention and more

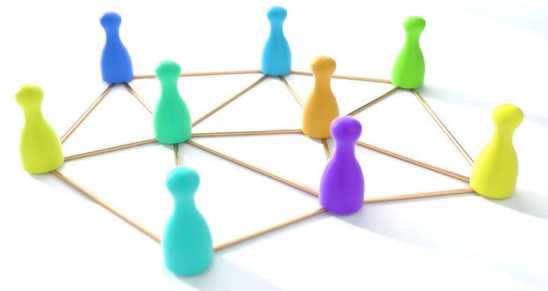
RSVP by May 31st at [forms.office.com/r/p2962EfG4f](https://forms.office.com/r/p2962EfG4f).

Primary Care Vision 2027  
Your Practice, Your Future

JUNE 14  
Save the Date!

## Primary Care Network Guidance from Ontario Health

The development of a Primary Care Network (PCN) will be mandatory for OHTs as they progress toward maturity. Ontario Health (OH) created a **Guidance Document** and a **PCN Readiness Assessment Template**. Completion of the template is optional for this year but is likely to be mandatory for fiscal 2025-26.



Our Primary Care and Physician Association currently serves the purpose of a PCN in its work with the OHT, but it is also intended to address priorities that are important to members. Our Network has been developed to include all physicians who have a clinical practice in the community in addition to Nurse Practitioners and eventually other providers such as midwives, community paramedics and community pharmacists.

Elsewhere in the province, some OHTs have already established networks that are organized and actively involved, as a collective, in the co-design of the work of the OHT. How our PCN will evolve and mature will require input from everyone to meet the needs of all types of practices and the patients we serve. For now, the OHT's Primary Health Care Clinicians Table is acting as the executive committee for the PCN. If you are interested in becoming active in the PCN, **reach out to Dr. Crabtree** or to the OHT directly. Over time, OHTs are expected to support their PCN to align with OH's guiding principles, vision, objectives and functions outlined in the **Guidance Document**.

## Cancer Screening

The Primary Care Project Team planned and implemented Cancer Screening Clinics for people without a primary care provider in November 2023 and February 2024. Medical residents from the University of Ottawa, RN students from St. Lawrence College, and primary care practitioners from the Centre de santé communautaire de l'Estrie, Alexandria Family Health Organization and Seaway Valley Community Health Centre participated in the events.

- 100 individuals received appropriate cancer screening for lung, breast, cervical and colon cancer
- 100% of clients would recommend this type of event to family and friends
- 99% of clients rated their experience as very good
- 100% of staff/volunteers would work at this type of event again

The Cancer Screening Working Group is now working on integrating it into primary care, with a particular focus on embedding it into the Ocean Messaging system for wider accessibility. Collaborations with Akwesasne, the Champlain Cancer Screening Outreach Program and the EOHU to expand the screening program across the region have begun. As the work progresses, practices currently without team-based supports may wish to benefit from being involved.

## EXPANDING AND ENHANCING INTERPROFESSIONAL PRIMARY CARE TEAMS (IPC FUNDING)



**Our OHT and its primary care organizations are leading the province with an innovative collaboration between the four team-based primary care models who have been awarded over \$4 million as part of the Expanding and Enhancing Interprofessional Primary Care Teams (IPC) funding envelope. This funding award was one of the largest in the province and came as a result of many hours of effort that were necessary to overcome differences in funding and reporting structures, differing styles of practice and competing priorities facing all primary care.**

This collaborative project proposal required transparency, openness to difficult conversations, and a willingness for the team-based models to listen and respond to each other's needs, as well as the needs of providers outside of their groups. Our OHT is very proud of this innovative shift in how team-based care will be provided across our region. This level of collaboration sets a precedent for future collaborative projects and ways of working, across our OHT partners and communities, and will potentially influence similar collaborative thinking beyond the Great River OHT.

Once the Implementation Plan has been approved by Ontario Health and staff have been hired, the IPC team will seek input through the Primary Care Network members to inform how these resources can be deployed across primary care (e.g., PCN Nurse).

## MOHAWK MEDBUY

Great River OHT members can access savings on purchases of medical supplies from Stevens and office supplies from Staples by setting up a FREE account with Mohawk Medbuy.



Contact [mcrabtree@wdmh.on.ca](mailto:mcrabtree@wdmh.on.ca) to be connected to the program. There is no obligation to purchase through this platform but savings can be realized on medical supplies through Stevens (and others) as well as on office supplies through Staples.

## HEALTH SERVICE ACCESS FOR NON-EMERGENCY CARE

The OHT has worked with its partner organizations, the Indigenous community and the Lived Experience Partners to develop a handout for people looking for primary care access who do not currently have a provider. Your office can print these or keep them in an electronic format to share with people via email or other digital means.

[Download the tool \(English version\)](#)

[Download the tool \(French version\)](#)

## NEW E2P COPD TOOL FOR PS SUITE

The updated E2P toolbar makes it easier to care for patients with COPD, Diabetes, Heart Failure and Anxiety/Depression. The toolbar supports primary care by giving them easier access to the information they need at the point of care.

[Learn more.](#)

## ASK MASI, A PERINATAL PSYCHIATRY ACCESS PROGRAM

Perinatal mental illnesses (PMIs) affect 1 in 5 birthing people; 75% of affected patients live without treatment. Untreated PMIs result in poorer antepartum health and nutrition, misattunement to baby's cues, and an increased risk of maternal suicide, infanticide, and child apprehension. Ask Masi, in partnership with the [Ottawa Birth and Wellness Centre](#), the [Ottawa Hospital](#), and the [Champlain Maternal and Newborn Regional Program](#), now offers a free professional to professional phone consult service with a perinatal mental health specialist. Any healthcare professional in Ontario Health East can call or text 613-800-0188 or visit [Ask Masi website](#).

## East Region VIRTUAL CARE CLINIC

Book a Virtual Appointment With a Nurse Practitioner



The ERVCC serves patients throughout Ontario's East Region who are experiencing an urgent medical condition and need access to timely care. The service is intended primarily for people without a primary care provider but will serve those who have a provider but have been unable to obtain a timely appointment.

Approximately 1,000 appointments per month are booked with a Nurse Practitioner through the ERVCC. Patients can access it 7 days a week from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. by registering at [www.virtualcareontario.ca](http://www.virtualcareontario.ca) or by calling 1-888-684-1999.