

Local Health Integration Networks: Building a True System

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Today's issue brings you the final LHIN boundaries. Also, included in this issue is an update on the selection of the board chairs, members, and CEOs.

LHIN Boundaries and Access to Care

LHIN boundaries will in no way prevent people from seeking health care services outside their own LHIN area. In that sense they are considered porous, or permeable, in terms of patient care. People will continue to be able to choose their health care provider as they do today.

LHINs will have the flexibility to address unique local population health needs and priorities. The ministry's role is to set the principles, goals, and baseline requirements for all LHINs so that all Ontarians will have access to a consistent set and standard of health care services, regardless of which LHIN they reside in.

LHINs will continue to engage with and seek input from their local communities on a number of issues to better plan and integrate local services with the goal of improving the accessibility and quality of healthcare.

Final Boundaries

Since we first announced our plan to create LHINs last September, significant work has been underway to develop them. In particular, over the last few months, the ministry has received and analyzed feedback on the LHIN boundaries from various stakeholders, and as a result, the boundaries were adjusted where appropriate.

Decisions to change the boundaries were driven by the following key considerations:

- Better alignment with regional and municipal boundaries
- Unique provider relationships and patient flow issues in the revised boundaries

- Consistency with the original goals of creating areas of localized healthcare (based on the original evidenced-based methodology developed by the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)).

We thank everyone who took the time to provide us with their input and recommendations on the LHIN boundaries.

Please visit www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation, to view the revised LHIN maps and to access the following supporting information and tools:

1. LHIN Locator – an interactive tool that lets you determine to which LHIN you or your organization belong by typing in your postal code
2. List of available key categories of health service providers, by LHIN
3. Updated ICES information on how localized health services are and population estimates for each LHIN. More detailed demographic information for each LHIN will be provided by Statistics Canada and will be posted as soon it is available.
4. Municipalities/cities/towns listing for each LHIN.

Update on LHIN Board and CEO Recruitment:

The government has been actively involved in a recruitment and selection process aimed at finding quality candidates to lead the 14 LHINs. We are making good progress and we are planning to announce the inaugural 14 LHIN boards (starting with one chair plus two directors for each LHIN) later this spring. We will continue to keep you updated about the board and CEO selection process.

Please feel free to share this bulletin with colleagues in your organization.

Please look for the LHIN Bulletin mid-month, every month. Also, LHIN-related updates and reports will be posted at www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation at the beginning of every month, if necessary.