

Accountability Agreement Update

Looking Ahead: 2008/09 Hospital Agreements

As reported in the last issue of *Accountability Agreement Update*, a draft regulation being proposed by the government would allow Ontario's 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) to negotiate service agreements with the hospital sector in the upcoming fiscal year.

In preparation for these negotiations, the JPPC's Strategic Issues Forum (SIF) has mandated the Accountability Committee to continue its work by assisting in the alignment of Hospital Accountability Agreement (HAA) indicators with those being proposed in the three-year Ministry-LHIN Accountability Agreement (MLAA).

At a recent committee meeting it was reported that the Ministry and LHINs are developing the performance schedules for their agreement. Their goal is to have the MLAA in place by April 2007.

"The alignment of provincial and local health system performance expectations supports the development of a health system's approach to accountability," said Hugh MacLeod Accountability Committee Co-Chair and Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System Performance and Accountability Division.

"Over time, sector-specific indicators will also align with strategic directions for the health system."

For more information about the JPPC's Accountability Committee and its sub-committees, see the special insert, "About the JPPC Accountability Committee."

In Brief

The Accountability Committee will work to align indicators in the HAA with those in the MLAA.

Deputy Minister confirms that upon assignment of agreements, LHINs will assume responsibility for most hospital programs and services currently administered by the Ministry.

LHINs to be Assigned Hospital Programs and Services

In a February 22nd memo to provider organizations, Deputy Minister Ron Sapsford updated stakeholders on the assignment of service agreements to LHINs.

The Deputy explained that, upon assignment of agreements, LHINs will assume responsibility for most programs and services currently administered by the Ministry that are delivered by the following health service providers:

- Public and Private Hospitals
- Long-Term Care Homes
- Community Health Centres
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Community Support Service Agencies

He also indicated that individual notices related to the process and timing for transferring service agreements would be sent shortly to these provider organizations.

An attachment to the memo details LHIN and Ministry responsibility by sector. According to the attachment, upon assignment of agreements, responsibility for all hospital programs and services will be transferred from the Ministry to LHINs, with the exception of cancer programs funded and managed by Cancer Care Ontario and the Paediatric Oncology Group of Ontario, which will remain with the Ministry.

Key Links and Resources

- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Hospital Planning and Accountability website
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/hosp_plan/hosp_plan_mn.html

- Joint Policy and Planning Committee website - Accountability Section
<http://www.jppc.org/ha>

- Notice of Proposed Regulation -Accountability Regulation Under the *Local Health System Integration Act, 2006*
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/lhin/lhin_accoutab.html

- *Proposed Accountability Regulation to the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006* OHA Backgrounder
http://www.oha.com/client/oha/oha_lp4w_lnd_webstation.nsf/page/Legislative+Issues+Analysis

New

- Memo from Assistant Deputy Minister, Acute Services Division, Update on the 2007/08 HAPS/HAA Negotiations, February 22, 2007
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/hosp_plan/neg_process.html

New

- Memo from Deputy Minister Ron Sapsford, Assignment of Service Agreements to LHINs, February 22, 2007
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/transition/transition_mn.html

Accountability Agreement Update

Accountability Agreement Update is published by the Joint Policy and Planning Committee (JPPC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA). It is intended to keep senior executives in Ontario hospitals informed of new developments related to the province's ongoing negotiations with hospitals towards achieving balanced budgets and the signing of accountability agreements.

Tell Us What You Think

We welcome your feedback. Let us know whether you are finding this newsletter helpful, or write to us with your suggestions or questions to:

Paula Neves
Consultant, JPPC
Tel: 416-599-5772, ext. 224
Email: pneves@jppc.org



Ontario Joint Policy and Planning Committee
415 Yonge Street, Suite 1200
Toronto, ON Canada
M5B 2E7
Tel: (416) 599-JPPC (5772)
Fax: (416) 599-6630
<http://www.jppc.org>



About the JPPC Accountability Committee

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Membership List

Co-Chairs



Mark Rochon
President & CEO
Toronto Rehabilitation
Institute



Hugh MacLeod
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health System
Accountability and
Performance Division
Ministry of Health and
Long-Term Care

Members

Representing Hospital Sector

Elizabeth Carlton (ex officio)
Ken Deane
Richard Ernst
Jim Flett
Kelly Isfan
Lou Reidel (ex officio)
Mark Rochon
Richard Wilson
Michael Young

Representing Local Health Integration Networks

Eileen Clark (ex officio)
Marilyn Emery
Barry Monaghan

Representing the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Marilyn Elliott (ex officio)
Hugh MacLeod
Dr Joshua Tepper

Joint Policy and Planning Committee

Steve Isaak (ex officio)

The JPPC's Accountability Committee was established in February 2006 to build on the work of the JPPC Multi-Year Funding Committee.

The Accountability Committee has taken great strides in its first year to develop indicators and hospital measures for use in accountability agreements for the 07/08 planning cycle.

The work of the JPPC Accountability Committee will continue for another year based on the Strategic Issues Forum's (SIF) decision to extend the committee's Terms of Reference to the end of December 2007.

Mandate

The Accountability Committee is an evidence-based, transparent forum with a mandate to:

- ▶ co-manage and resolve policy, planning, negotiation and implementation issues related to hospital accountability agreements; and,
- ▶ provide a collaborative, evidence-based, fair and transparent forum for the Ministry and hospitals to enhance the quality, safety, timeliness and other aspects of hospital care.

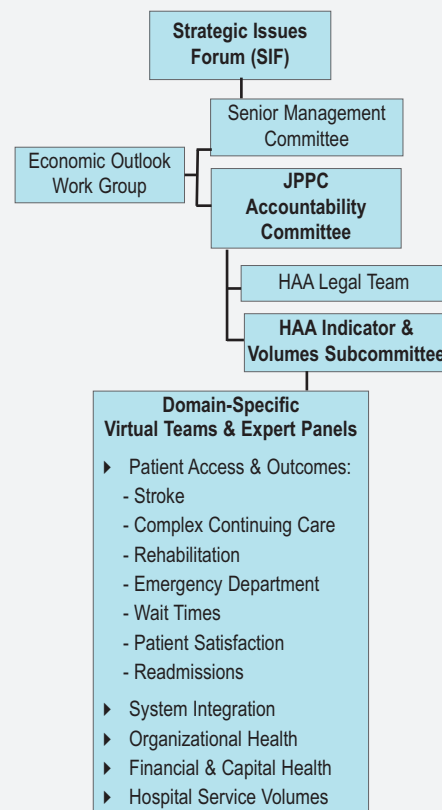
Membership

The committee is comprised of representatives from hospitals, LHINs, the OHA and the Ministry who bring a mix of management, clinical leadership and finance perspectives. It is co-chaired by Mark Rochon representing hospitals and Hugh MacLeod representing the Ministry.

Subcommittee & Virtual Teams

The Accountability Committee receives day-to-day project support from the JPPC and technical advice from its HAA Legal Team and the HAA Indicators & Volumes Subcommittee – which is supported by various virtual groups and expert panels.

Committee Structure



Representatives from three key health organizations (the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the Hospital Report Research Collaborative, and the Institute for Clinical Evaluation Sciences) along with representatives of the OHA and the Ministry are actively involved in the virtual teams that review and refine hospital performance indicators.

The work of the committee, subcommittee and virtual team members is not limited to project meetings – they also participate in JPPC's educational sessions, and offer their expert interpretations to the field.

For more information on the Accountability Committee visit: <http://www.jppc.org/ha>.

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Toronto, ON Canada M5B 2E7
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Fax: (416) 599-6630
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