

Backgrounder: Innovation - New Continuing Care Models

Achieving goals outlined in the provincial government's policy papers on mental health, primary and community care will require development of new continuing care models to address some of the pressing challenges of increased acuity and acute care wait times.

As outlined in a recent [Ontario Long Term Care Association report](#), innovative care models featuring highly integrated teams require new roles and a different mix of skills. Some would allow the same service providers to provide care in and out of hospital. While each merits further consideration, BCCPA particularly supports the development of *Continuing Care Hubs*.

A Community Care Hub is a network of care homes and/or home care providers sharing services and specializing in seniors care within a specific geographic area. With this model, the residential care facility becomes a Hub for the delivery of a wide range of services, including:

- primary and sub-acute care
- emergency professionals
- dialysis and chronic disease management
- rehabilitation; oral and foot care
- adult day/night programs
- specialized geriatric services delivered with hospital and community partners
- integrated telehealth technologies for rural or remote communities

While Hubs differ depending on community needs, common features are integration of health professionals, new roles for care providers, outcome-based funding models and co-location of services. BCCPA believes the Hub model can lower ER visits by seniors in residential care and the population at large. A 10% reduction could save more than \$13 million.

The Hub model can also increase choice for seniors utilizing BC's "First Appropriate Bed" (FAB) policy which requires a senior assessed as ready for residential care to accept the first appropriate bed in their area within 48 hours or risk being removed from the priority list.

In addition to Care Hubs it is important to look at other models for home care and home support. Much like long term care, the appropriate home care model depends on the capacity and expertise of service providers and the community. One model similar to the Hub is for service providers to join together as part of an affiliated network to provide seniors care for a particular area. The network could be affiliated with a specific Continuing Care Hub and contract with them to provide services to seniors.

Related to Care Hubs is the concept of Geriatric Centre of Excellence in which residential care homes participate more in sector research. A provincial centre could link with a pan-Canadian network of industry, non-profit organizations, government, care providers, seniors, families and academic partners to drive innovation and create new technologies and services.