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# Halton Hills Health Link seeks input

Halton Hills is developing a Health Link to improve local health care for seniors and others with complex conditions and is seeking public input.

- Do you visit doctors, hospitals or other health services often?
- Do you or your family have many health issues and feel there is no plan to keep you healthy?
- Has your health care ever made you feel like you fell through the cracks?
- Would you like to tell your story and share what is good and bad about your health care?

The Halton Hills Health Link Community Partners Project Team (CPPT) is interested in hearing from anyone who answered yes to any of these questions and invites them to participate in an open focus group meeting on Monday, May 5, 2-4 p.m. in Acton or 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Georgetown (honorarium offered).

People can also share their health care experiences by completing a telephone survey. All information will remain anonymous. To participate in the phone survey call Links2Care at 905-873-6502 for details.

The goal of Halton Hills Health Link, a new provincial initiative co-lead by Halton Hills Family Health Team and Links2Care, is to encourage greater collaboration between local health care providers—including family care providers, specialists, hospitals, long-term care, home care and other com-

munity supports and mental health services. Patients will receive faster care, followup and referrals, spend less time waiting, avoid gaps and duplication in service, and be supported by a team of providers at all levels of the health care system.

Typically, the patients the Health Link is focusing on are seniors with multiple chronic diseases who often default to the Emergency Department for care and are repeatedly re-admitted to hospital when they could be receiving care in the community. A recent study found that 75% of seniors with complex conditions who are discharged from hospital receive care from six or more physicians and 30 per cent get their drugs from three or more pharmacies. The result is decreased patient care that costs the system more than it should.

Patients with the greatest health care needs make up five per cent of Ontario's population but use services that account for two-thirds of health care dollars.

Better coordination through Ontario's Health Links will result in better care and significant health system savings that can be devoted to other patients, ultimately improving the sustainability of public health care in general.

For more information: Links2Care, 905-873-6502 or visit <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/transformation/community.aspx>



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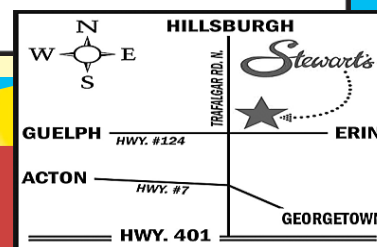
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