

Admission process for long-term-care facilities is being revised by the provincial government

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**
The Champion

The provincial government is revising the admission process for long-term care (LTC) facilities in an attempt to make it more efficient.

"With the new long-term care beds coming on stream — 1,600 of them in Halton (Burlington and Oakville) — we need a new procedure. The current procedure couldn't possibly handle that many new beds," Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh told The Champion.

"This system is more fair. It has a better prioritization procedure

and a better way for reporting the needs of the community."

Among the policy revisions are limitations to the number of waiting lists an individual can sit on, the establishment of a "one-offer" regulation, inclusion of additional medical professionals that can sign necessary medical forms and alterations to the admission prioritization categories.

"Certainly over the last couple weeks and over the next couple, this is a lot of work for our case managers and coordinators — contacting our clients and explaining it to them," said Mary Siegner of the Halton Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), which handles all LTC facility admissions in the region. "But I

think in the end, this will facilitate a more streamlined process and better access to the beds."

LTC facility applicants will now be limited to sitting on three different facility waiting lists. No limit previously existed.

Waiting list prioritization is also being re-written. New priority categories are designed to eliminate levels of paperwork relating to individuals temporarily moved to another facility for renovations.

"There really isn't much change in the prioritization from an outside perspective," said Ms Siegner. "It's really just streamlining those clients so there isn't a lot of re-application and those sorts of things."

New regulations will also see an applicant removed from all waiting lists, should they refuse an offer of admission by any of their facilities of choice.

Persons residing in the community will be required to wait six months before they'll be able to re-apply should they refuse an admission offer. Existing LTC residents looking to move, but refuse an offer, will lose their priority and be forced to re-apply — with no time delay instituted.

Exceptions may be made based on changes in the health of the applicant.

"What this is doing is having people streamline their choice of facilities to which they would readily accept a bed and ensuring those who are perhaps further down the list, but are truly ready for a bed, can more quickly get that bed," said Ms Siegner. "It's really good news for the people who are behind the ones who refuse."

In an attempt to expedite the application process, the new policy allows registered nurses and nurse practitioners to sign necessary medical documents in addition to physicians — which are currently the only personnel permitted to sign.

Other admission process revisions include the mandatory reporting of LTC facility vacancies to the CCAC, an extension of the bed holding period from three days to five and increased notice of facility closures.

Two more medal winners at Kilbride

Two groups of students from Kilbride Public School received medals at the Halton Skills Olympics earlier this month.

Charlotte Swanson, Katarine Masciantonio, Kevin DaSilva and Graeme McLeod placed second in the grades 4 to 6 technical Design Challenge while Jon Cragg, Emma Sobrinho, Matt Lasswell and Chantal Gagnon received bronze.

The students names were in inadvertently left out of the Halton Skills Olympics story that appeared in The Champion April 23.

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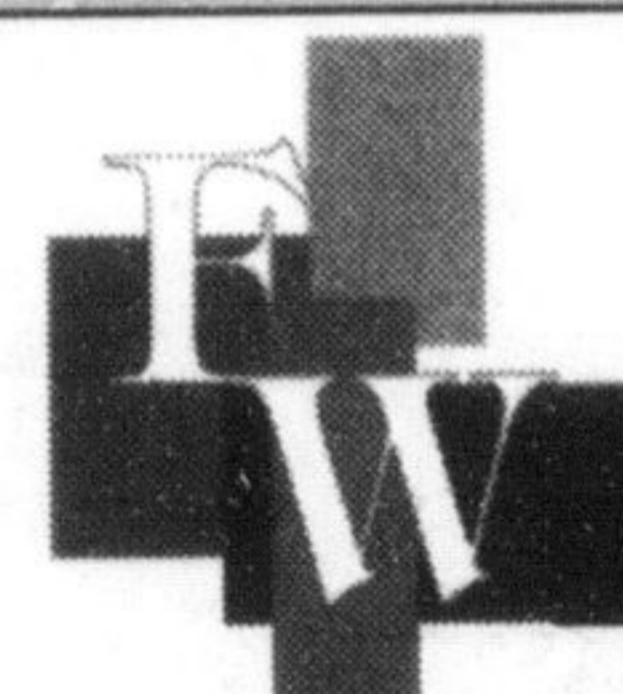


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