



Terms of Reference: Rehabilitative Care Alliance Community-Based Rehab Advisory Group

Background

The Rehabilitative Care Alliance (RCA) was created by Ontario's Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) in 2013 to bring about the system transformation that no single LHIN could achieve on its own. Through significant engagement of provincial stakeholders including health service providers, subject matter experts, patient and family representatives and others, the RCA has set in motion significant change across the province.

By standardizing many aspects of planning, evaluation and clinical care across the province, the RCA and its partners are ensuring that health care resources are used more effectively and that Ontarians receive high quality rehabilitative care no matter where they live.

The RCA's next work plan from 2019 – 2022 will allow the RCA to continue its successful efforts to strengthen and standardize rehabilitative care across the province. The benefits of rehabilitative care — better health outcomes, shortened hospital stays and reduced hospitalizations among older adults — are particularly relevant today, as stakeholders seek to improve flow, divert patients from emergency departments, maintain and enhance function in the community, and reduce hallway medicine.

Over the next three years, the RCA will build on the impact of its current work with a focus on the following:

- **Frail Seniors:** Continue to support efforts to reduce preventable emergency department visits and maintain and improve the functional status of community-based frail seniors who fall.
- **Capacity Planning:** Support regions in applying a standardized, needs-based approach to capacity planning for rehabilitative care so that resources are optimally allocated to address patient needs.
- **Bundled Funding:** Continue to work with the MOHLTC and rehabilitative care providers to support expansion of bundled funding projects.
- **Hip Fracture/Total Joint Replacement (TJR) QBP Best Practices:** Increase alignment across province with TJR rehabilitative care best practices to support implementation and spread of the MOHLTC hip & knee bundled care initiative.
- **Community-Based Rehab Initiative:** Improve understanding of how community-based rehabilitative care models could be used to support enhanced patient outcomes, better flow and improved patient transitions.
- **System Evaluation:** Continue to standardize evaluation of rehabilitative care services at the regional and provincial level to support evidence-based practice and system-wide improvement.
- **Definitions:** Continue to guide and support the spread and integration of the definitions frameworks to drive standardization across the province.
- **Assess & Restore:** Analyze provincial outcomes of Assess & Restore funding to illustrate impact on clinical outcomes and system efficiencies.



From the beginning, the RCA's strength has been the tremendous engagement and support of stakeholders from across the province.

Objectives Mandate IV (April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2022)

Stakeholders have pointed to a need for improved understanding of how community-based rehabilitative care models can be used to support enhanced patient outcomes, better flow and improved patient transitions. The objective of the Community-Based Rehab Initiative is therefore to profile the role of community-based rehabilitation in supporting people to return home, enhance or maintain functional status as a basis to support knowledge exchange and identify opportunities for spread of innovative, cost-effective models of rehabilitative care.

Deliverables

The following are anticipated deliverables for this initiative. These may be subject to change depending on the discussions of the task group and the potential influence of other provincial initiatives. Any significant change in deliverables will be discussed with the task group and Steering Committee.

- Produce a white paper that summarizes community-based rehab models in practice and in the literature that have demonstrated an impact on client and system level outcomes. Community-Based Rehab models to include a focus on rehab delivered in ambulatory, in-home and primary care settings.
 - Review existing literature, frameworks and best practice guidelines, engage with provincial stakeholders including clinical subject matter experts to identify key best practices and community-based models of care impacting client and system level outcomes
 - Develop criteria to define the scope of best practice inclusion in a Community-Based Rehab White Paper

Roles and Responsibilities

- The advisory group will be supported by the Rehabilitative Care Alliance Secretariat.
- The Rehabilitative Care Alliance Steering Committee will act to support the Community-Based Rehab Advisory Group and remove/eliminate barriers, as able, to facilitate the work of the group.
- If Advisory Group members share documents pertaining to the work of the group with stakeholders outside of the committee, members will provide contextual information to the recipient to explain the purpose of the work as well as any other information that is required to provide clarity around the work and the information contained within the document(s).
- Members are expected to review distributed materials in advance of the meeting.
- If members are unable to attend a meeting, members may identify an alternate representative who will attend meetings on their behalf and provide the alternate attendee with information required to support their participation. The alternate will communicate the proceedings, decisions and any actions required to the member.

Accountability



- The Community-Based Rehab Advisory Group is accountable to the Rehabilitative Care Alliance Steering Committee for fulfilling its mandate and producing the deliverables (as described above) by agreed upon timelines.

Membership

Given that the focus of this initiative is on profiling the roles community-based rehabilitation, this Advisory Group will be composed of individuals who are involved in the best practice implementation of outpatient ambulatory, in-home and primary care models of care.

Advisory Group

Chair: TBD

Term

The term of this Advisory Group is through March 2022.

Decision Making

The Advisory Group will strive for consensus and will use voting when there is no clear agreement.

Meetings

The Advisory Group will meet quarterly or as required to achieve the deliverables, throughout the course of the mandate. Additional meetings may be required to complete work according to project timelines. Webinars, teleconference and other formats will be used to facilitate meeting attendance.

Minutes

Minutes shall be recorded for all meetings and circulated to committee members for dissemination/distribution to relevant stakeholders within each organization.

Communication

The RCA secretariat will distribute meeting materials, via email, in advance of each meeting. Any documents that solicit feedback from committee members will be distributed via email. All documents approved for broad distribution will be posted on the Rehabilitative Care Alliance website.