

February 8, 2013

Erie St. Clair LHIN Announces Third Version of Our Three-Year Plan for Local Health Care

The Erie St. Clair LHIN (ESC LHIN) is pleased to announce the launch of our third Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP 3). With a focus on patient-centred care, the IHSP 3 builds on the success of the two previous IHSPs and sets the direction for the ESC LHIN and our funded health service providers over the next three years.

IHSP 3 has four measurable, key strategic priorities, which the ESC LHIN has set specific targets designed to improve our local health care system:

1. Alternate Level of Care (ALC)

Too often, people remain in hospital when an Alternate Level of Care (ALC) is available and would serve them better – for instance, at home or in long-term care, where services can be better tailored to their needs. The IHSP 3 looks at ways to reduce wait times and reduce ALC challenges.

2. Emergency Department (ED)

ESC LHIN's hospital EDs continue to be the default portal through which many residents access health care. The resulting ED congestion is an indicator of overall health system performance, telling us how effectively our primary health care, community care, mental health, and hospital programs are working together to better serve patients.



“We’ve seen a lot of changes over the past six years. LHINs have established themselves as the planners, managers, and funders of local health care, and this latest refresh of our Integrated Health Service Planning document provides strong focus for achieving measurable improvements. The IHSP 3 directly reflects our goal to create better care, better experiences, and better value for everyone.”

- **Gary Switzer, CEO,
Erie St. Clair LHIN**



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3. Chronic Disease Management

Compared to the province, the Erie St. Clair population has higher rates of occurrence for arthritis, asthma, diabetes, hypertension, mood disorder, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and heart disease.

4. Mental Health and Addictions

ESC LHIN is continuing to work hard to improve access to mental health and addictions programs. By strengthening these programs, we are able to have a significant positive impact on emergency departments, acute settings, and the community.

Throughout the ESC LHIN's planning, we have never lost sight of the core values of improving access to care, finding quality enhancements, and developing better system coordination and integration, while also ensuring that we are doing all of these things in a cost-effective way.

The IHSP 3 and appendices are available through our website at <http://www.eriestclairhin.on.ca/Page.aspx?id=13428>.

LEARN MORE

For more information about the Erie St. Clair LHIN, please visit: www.eriestclairhin.on.ca

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ABOUT THE ESC LHIN

The Erie St. Clair LHIN is a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care agency that plans and pays for health care services totalling a billion dollars a year in our region alone – everything from hospitals to Meals on Wheels.

The Erie St. Clair LHIN strives to make the health care system better by understanding and responding to local needs and by getting services to work together more efficiently. That's how we'll all get better health care, while saving money and making the system sustainable for our children and grandchildren.



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