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April 29, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Hospital CEOs

FROM: Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister
James Stewart, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister

RE: **Medical Residents Redeployment Program**

The purpose of this memo is to provide information about the Medical Residents Redeployment Program (MRRP) and related expenses that are eligible for submission to the Ministry of Health (the ministry).

On April 7, 2021 a third emergency was declared under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 9, 2021, the Lieutenant Governor in Council issued an order under the EMCPA to provide Ontario Health and Home and Community Care Support Services (otherwise known as Local Health Integration Networks) with the ability to redeploy staff to hospitals in order to support the staffing and capacity pressures caused by the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 22, 2021, a new order under the EMCPA authorized health care professionals to provide patient care services outside their regular scope of practice and enables hospitals to employ, contract, appoint or otherwise engage regulated health professionals from out-of-province.

Regulated health professionals, either from Ontario or out-of-province, are now authorized to engage outside of their regular scope of practice, provided that it is necessary in response to the pandemic and is consistent with the duties that are assigned or the privileges that are granted by the hospital, and the professional acts in a manner that is consistent with any measures taken by a hospital as part of its efforts to respond to, prevent and alleviate the outbreak of COVID-19.

Hospitals are responsible to ensure that staff members are only assigned tasks or asked to deliver services that they are reasonably qualified to provide. Under the *EMCPA* health professionals acting under the Act or the authority of an order issued under the Act will not be subject to any action or other proceedings for actions they take or perform under the Act, or an order made under the Act, or for neglect or default in performance of these acts, where they are done in good faith.

Medical residents have been identified as one of the key health care professional groups well-suited and willing for time-limited redeployment to provide patient care services outside their regular scope of practice.

The ministry recognizes that hospitals continue to face increasing health human resources pressures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to these pressures, the ministry is making the MRRP immediately available to all hospitals across Ontario.

The MRRP is a time-limited program (April 28, 2021 to July 31, 2021). Details of the program are provided in the attached Medical Residents Redeployment Program Fact Sheet. MRRP expenses incurred between April 28, 2021 and July 31, 2021 are now eligible for submission through the COVID-19 Hospital Incremental Expenses process. Updated expense guidelines and reporting templates to allow for reporting under this program will be communicated to the sector in the coming weeks.

As previously communicated, the ministry is committed to working closely with hospitals to ensure appropriate use of the COVID-19 expense process. As such, we are working with Ontario Health to review and validate expenses for reimbursement. To support this, hospitals must continue to maintain detailed financial and programmatic records, which may be requested by the ministry.

Should you have any questions about the Medical Residents Redeployment Program, please contact David Lamb, Director, Capacity and Health Workforce Planning Branch at David.Lamb@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued commitment to delivering high quality care to patients during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,



James Stewart
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Hospitals and Capital Division



Michael Hillmer
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capacity Planning and Analytics Division

Attachments

- c: Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health
Anthony Dale, President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association
Catherine Brown, CEO, Health Shared Services Ontario (HSSOntario)
Peter Kaftarian, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Administrative Officer,
Ministry of Health
Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Alison Blair, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Rhonda McMichael, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Marysia Szymczak, Director, Communications Branch, Ministry of Health
Elham Roushani, Chief Financial Officer, Ontario Health
Jeffrey Graham, Director, Fiscal Oversight and Performance Branch, Ministry
of Health
Jim Yuill, Director, Financial Management Branch, Ministry of Health
Tara Wilson, Interim Director, Hospitals Branch, Ministry of Health
Kristin Taylor, Director, Provincial Programs Branch, Ministry of Health
David Lamb, Director, Capacity and Health Workforce Planning Branch,
Ministry of Health
Andrew Mukoma Director, Ontario Health Oversight Branch, Ministry of Health
Regional Leads, Ontario Health: Tess Romain (Toronto); Donna Cripps
(Central); Cynthia Martineau (East); Mark Walton (West); Brian Ktytor (North)