

1.0 Provincial Context

1.1 The Province's Vision for Health Care

The Ontario Government's vision for the future of our health care system is:

A health care system that helps people stay healthy, delivers good care to them when they get sick and will be there for their children and grandchildren.

The provincial government has determined a vision of health care in Ontario and set out a detailed transformation approach to improve our health system. The four key components are:

1. improving access to family doctors and other primary care providers,
2. reducing wait times for specific, high-demand surgical and diagnostic procedures,
3. developing an information management system, including electronic health (e-Health) records that will follow patients throughout their journey of care, and
4. putting in place local health integration networks (LHINs) in 14 geographic areas across the Province, to plan, facilitate, and fund health care services at the local level.

In addition, the Province has set out **five strategic directions** for Ontario's health system which form the basis for the development of a 10-year provincial Health System Strategic Plan to be released in the spring of 2007:

1. Renewed community engagement and partnerships in and about the health care system,
2. Improve the health status of Ontarians,
3. Ontarians will have equitable access to the care and services they need no matter where they live or their socio/cultural/economic status,
4. Improve the quality of health outcomes, and
5. Establish a framework for sustainability of the health system that achieves the best results for consumers and the community.

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)

WWLHIN is one of the 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) established by the Ontario Government to transform Ontario's health system. The LHINs are charged with building integrated health systems in our communities through planning, coordinating, funding and evaluation at the local level. By creating community-based planning offices, run by community-based personnel, charged with making community-based decisions and engaging with community members, residents of Ontario will begin to see a positive shift in the way the health system is planned and delivered.

The road to creating a locally integrated health system in consultation with the public and community partners represents a challenging, yet rewarding, approach to health system planning.



The WWLHIN will help to create a “journey of care” with smooth transitions and easy to identify, accessible services for residents.

