

MAY 10, 2022

OLTCC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM MLTC WEBINARS

Thank you for participating in the MLTC webinar presentation co-hosted by OLTCC and OMA. The MLTC has undertaken to send answers to questions after the webinars. However, we noted some questions to which OLTCC can provide further detail now, prior to the full FAQ being released. OLTCC is a not-for-profit organization with a volunteer board of directors composed of practicing Medical Directors providing their time to develop education and advocacy to support excellent care in LTC.

Can Nurse Practitioners be Medical Directors?

- No. However, they can support Medical Directors and be delegated by Medical Directors to represent them at some Committee meetings.

Will there be a role for Physician Assistants?

- We are aware this is actively under discussion at the Ministry. OLTCC has supported the use of Physician Assistants.

Medical Director Course:

- OLTCC's Medical Director Curriculum Committee has been working to address capacity and refresher courses to support Medical Directors in meeting the requirements of the new regulations.
- Priority will be given to Medical Directors who have not previously completed the course.
- There will be a shorter refresher course for those who have already taken the course to provide new content, including requirements under the new act and regulations, and a new module on the palliative philosophy of care.
- All content is updated regularly as part of the living manual that is housed on the OLTCC website for all who have completed the course.
- We will continue to offer variable formats for ease of completion (in-person and virtual).
- While the course includes didactic material, it primarily focuses on case-based, small group discussions facilitated by experienced Medical Directors which allows for rich discussion around actual scenarios faced by Medical Directors. There is consistently positive feedback from participants.
- The Course is certified for up to 64 MainPro+ credits.
- As the MLTC stated, there will be funding to compensate participants, likely via the licensee, for attending the course.

Hours on site:

- OLTCC clearly delineated for the Ministry the roles of Medical Director and those of attending physicians. Medical Directors can work remotely on many administrative matters and should be able to delegate to some of the committee meetings, but we also recognize that much knowledge and perspective is gained when doing clinical work.

Liability:

- OLTCC clarified with MLTC that the licensee is responsible for any fines. All contracts between MDs and Licensees should include a clause with regard to indemnification similar to this:
The Long-Term Care home agrees to indemnify and save harmless the Medical Director from any claims, demands, damages or actions brought against the Medical Director in relation to provision of service by employees or agents of the Long-Term Care home.

- There is a template contract on OLTCC's website for members. The Medical Director may wish to see the licensee's insurance policy.

Compensation and Remuneration for MDs:

- Compensation and remuneration have been flagged repeatedly by OLTCC with the Ministry, the Minister's Office, The MLTC Response and Recovery Committee, and the COVID-19 LTC Commission. OLTCC has noted this is a serious issue that will have to be addressed to recruit and retain physicians and Medical Directors to LTC.
- MLTC has indicated that it is aware of the issue. At this point, they must wait for the election to take place and a Government to be sworn in before more on this subject is addressed, i.e. more funding to support licensees in remunerating Medical Directors appropriately.
- OLTCC plays no role in the compensation process for physicians. Physician compensation is governed by the Ministry of Health (now a separate Ministry from MLTC). OMA plays a role in the negotiation process.

OLTCC Board Members have also volunteered their time to participate at various Government tables in an effort to put forward concerns of clinicians in LTC: the MLTC Response and Recovery Committee including the Medical Task Team, the Strategic Long-Term Care Advisory Table, and correspondence with Public Health Ontario and Ontario Health. While some OLTCC recommendations have been heard and acted on, we are still working on others as we move to Phase Two of the Regulations.