

Thursday, April 9, 2020

## COVID-19 REPORT

### Long Term Care and COVID-19 Town Hall

OLTCC and the OMA Section for LTC and COE invites all to join a virtual town hall on Thursday, April 9, **8:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. This will immediately follow Dr. Sohail Gandhi's townhall on virtual care at 7 PM. In addition to the Section of Long Term Care and Care of the Elderly, invitations are sent the Sections of General and Family Practice, Palliative Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Psychiatry.

Our expert panelists from long term care and palliative care will be Drs. Julie Auger, Rhonda Collins, Pamela Liao and Andrea Moser. They will be available to answer questions on management strategies in urban, suburban and rural communities. This is a great opportunity to discuss solutions for the challenges we are all facing in long-term care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Submit your questions to [office@oltcc.ca](mailto:office@oltcc.ca)

Medical Directors, attending physicians and other clinicians in long term care express their concern that transfers to LTC from the hospital, and other settings, do not require a swab COVID-19 prior to transfer. These new admissions are placed in 14-day isolation. The response from public health officials is that because of isolation, the management of these individuals would be unchanged. OLTCC feels that we should do everything to prevent the entry of COVID-19 into our homes. Staff needs reassurance for their safety in this stressful time.

Today will begin a series of webinars from the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario on new Managing Resident Death Report. Details will be in tomorrow's OLTCC COVID-19 report. Death is common in LTC but like families, fellow residents and staff are missing the usual bereavement and farewell to a member of the home's family. The bereavement sector is also feeling the strain. Rules and protocols around transport, funerals and "disposition" of the body – such as burial or cremation, change daily. Families are being encouraged to proceed with disposition, meaning burials or cremation, as soon as possible, and the regulator is strongly discouraging embalming, which also uses valuable protective gear.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-plan-for-the-worst-and-hope-for-the-best-canadas-funeral-industry/>

## Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) and eConsult

eConsult is a simple tool that can assist LTC clinicians in clinical decision making during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consider to following situations to eConsult:

- consult the COVID-19 subspecialty group about infection prevention practices
- consult pharmacists or geriatricians about deprescribing to reduce medication burden and potentially reduce nursing workload during medication pass
- consult with medicine, geriatrics or other specialty services about the management or prognosis of residents with high complexity and frequent ER transfers
- consult with specialists to optimize the management of complex chronic illness
- consult with specialists on how to safely defer planned external appointments
- consult with palliative care to support care at the end-of-life.

“Over the course of a few short weeks COVID-19 has completely changed the way we practice medicine and LTC.” Dr. Celeste Fung is the Long Term Care eConsult Lead and a Medical Director of a 288 bed home in Ottawa. eConsult can assist to stabilize chronic conditions, reduce ED transfers and promote clinical capacity when resources are stretched.

The Ontario eConsult Program provides regional and provincial eConsult services incorporating both the BASE™ managed specialty and direct-to-specialist models through the Ontario eConsult Service (accessed on the OTNhub) and Champlain BASE™ eConsult Service (primarily used in Champlain and Mississauga-Halton regions). Many physicians and nurse practitioners across the province are already registered on one or both of these services and can access a wide range of specialties, including the newly added COVID-19 specialty group, to receive timely advice/guidance from appropriate specialists. More information about the Program and LTC-specific resources can be found at [www.eConsultOntario.ca](http://www.eConsultOntario.ca). Assistance for existing and new users can be obtained from the Ontario eConsult Centre of Excellence at [eConsultCOE@toh.ca](mailto:eConsultCOE@toh.ca) [for the Champlain BASE™ eConsult Service, you may also contact [eConsultSupport@lhinworks.on.ca](mailto:eConsultSupport@lhinworks.on.ca)].