

### *Action Plan for Health Care*

In February 2015, Ontario's Minister of Health, Dr. Eric Hoskins, released an updated Action Plan for Health Care. The focus is on "Putting Patients First", which is defined as:

- Supporting Ontarians to make healthier choices and help prevent disease and illness
- Engaging Ontarians on health care, so we fully understand their needs and concerns
- Focusing on people, not just their illnesses
- Providing care that is coordinated and integrated, so a patient can get the right care from the right providers
- Educating patients to understand how the system works, so they can find the care they need when and where they need it
- Decisions that are based on patients feedback, allowing patients to play a major role in system change
- Providing transparency in health care, so Ontarians can make informed choices

This plan focuses on four key objectives:

1. **Access:** Improve access – providing faster access to the right care.

*When people want to take steps to prevent illness, are sick or get injured, they need to be able to get the right kind of help, whether from a family doctor, nurse-practitioner, pharmacist or a number of different care providers.*

2. **Connect:** Connect services – delivering better coordinated and integrated care in the community, closer to home.

*The foundation has been laid to enable the home and community care sector to meet the needs of today's population with an enhanced focus on seniors and chronic disease management.*

3. **Inform:** Support people and patients – providing the education, information and transparency they need to make the right decisions about their health.

*For Ontarians, health is also about more than the care they receive from providers. It is about living a healthier life, avoiding getting sick and learning about good ways to manage illness when it happens. Creating a culture of health and wellness will support Ontarians in making educated, informed decisions about their care.*

4. **Protect:** Protect our universal public health care system – making evidence based decisions on value and quality, to sustain the system for generations to come.

*Our universal health care system belongs to the people of Ontario. Ontarians fund it and depend on it for their health and the health of their children. With an aging population that will have a growing need for health care services, maintaining a sustainable health care system means controlling costs and targeting funding on preventing illness and improving results for patients.*

For more information on Ontario's plan for changing and improving Ontario's health system see the [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#).