

Health Care Professionals

There are 23 self-regulated health professions in Ontario, such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists and physiotherapists. Each of these professions has their own regulatory college that sets and enforces professional and educational standards for their members.

Doctors are paid by the provincial government, typically on a fee-for-service basis. For example, if a patient needs surgery, the hospital covers the cost of all the required equipment, supplies and all other related costs for the procedure. The hospital also covers the nurses and other healthcare professional that assist in the operating room, and the recovery of the patient. The surgeon who is not paid by the hospital bills the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for performing the surgery and seeing the patient on the surgery ward.

Monitoring Quality of Care

Health Quality Ontario (HQP) is a provincially funded agency of the Ontario government that is mandated under the Excellent Care for All Act. HQO reports to the public on the quality of the health care system, support quality improvement activities and makes evidence-based recommendations on health care funding.

HQP defines six key factors of a high-performing health care system:

- Accessible – Patients should receive timely and appropriate access to services to help them achieve the best possible health outcomes.
- Effective – Patients should receive care that is effective, and based on the best available scientific information.
- Safe - Patients should not be harmed by accidents or mistakes when they receive health care services.
- Patient-centred – Health care providers should offer services in a way that is sensitive to patients’ needs and preferences.
- Efficient – Health care providers should look for ways to achieve the highest possible patient outcomes using the most efficient services by reducing waste or duplication.
- Focused on population health – The health care system should be focused on preventing sickness and improving the health of all.