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**REPORT TITLE:     Nurse Practitioner Funding for Long Term Care**

**FROM:                   Nancy Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the 2021 Long Term Care operating budget be amended to include provincial funding provided through Ontario Health (Central) in the amount of \$122,853 to support the Attending Nurse Practitioners in Long Term Care Homes Initiative;**

**And further, that an additional 1.0 permanent full-time equivalent Attending Nurse Practitioner, to be fully funded by Ontario Health (Central), be approved.**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Since 2015, the Ministry of Long-Term Care has been providing provincial funding for the Attending Nurse Practitioners in Long Term Care Homes Initiative.
- Peel Long Term Care has been approved by Ontario Health (Central) to receive base funding towards the salary and benefits for one permanent full-time equivalent Nurse Practitioner on-site at Malton Village Long Term Care home.
- Working in collaboration with physicians and nursing staff, the Attending Nurse Practitioner will focus on the acute needs of residents, enhance staff capacity to provide complex care, and infection prevention and control practices.

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## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Background**

In 2015, the Ministry of Long-Term Care introduced the Attending Nurse Practitioners in Long Term Care (LTC) Homes Initiative, a program designed to address the complex health needs of people living in LTC homes. Through this initiative, Ontario Health funds identified LTC homes for Attending Nurse Practitioner positions. This position is an on-site care provider, designated to a LTC home, with advanced nursing skills to provide health assessments and treatments for residents with complex care needs.

Nurse Practitioners are registered nurses with advanced education and clinical knowledge to diagnose and treat acute conditions, prescribe and monitor medications, and order and interpret lab tests (e.g., x-rays or other diagnostic tests), working in collaboration with physicians and nursing staff. The role of nurse practitioners in LTC contribute towards a reduction in avoidable emergency department visits by providing acute care to residents with complex care needs in the absence of a physician.

## **Nurse Practitioner Funding for Long Term Care**

### **2. The Role of Attending Nurse Practitioners in Peel Long Term Care**

Malton Village Long Term Care has been selected and approved by Ontario Health (Central) to receive base funding to support the implementation of the Attending Nurse Practitioners in LTC Homes Initiative. Peel LTC is requesting approval to hire one permanent full-time equivalent nurse practitioner.

Working in collaboration with the attending physician and nursing staff at Malton Village, the Attending Nurse Practitioner will strengthen care by increasing access to, and quality of, primary health care by providing proactive screening and assessment, timely specialist referrals, follow-up care, ongoing chronic disease management, infection prevention and control practices, and end of life care for residents.

The Attending Nurse Practitioner will also lead and collaborate on research, education, and evidence-based practice to optimize resident care and quality improvement initiatives. This role will further complement clinical supports to respond to the increasing complexity of resident needs. Anticipated outcomes of having an on-site nurse practitioner include reductions in potentially avoidable emergency transfers, medication errors, and other publicly reported quality indicators, such as falls, pain management, and skin and wound care.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Ontario Health (Central) has approved base funding of \$122,853 annually towards the salary and benefits for a 1.0 permanent full-time equivalent Attending Nurse Practitioner. There will be a no net tax impact to the 2021 Budget for this position.

As with many of the provincial programs, this type of funding has not included any increases for inflation.

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*For further information regarding this report, please contact Ann-Marie Case-Volkert, Interim Director of Long Term Care, Ext. 2407, [ann-marie.case-volkert@peelregion.ca](mailto:ann-marie.case-volkert@peelregion.ca).*

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### ***Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:***

Department Commissioner, Division Director and Financial Support Unit.