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SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

Information Bulletin

Bill 7: The More Beds, Better Care Act — A Serious Threat to Patient Rights in Ontario

November 30, 2026

In the summer of 2022, just months after Doug Ford and his Progressive Conservatives secured a landslide election victory, the Ontario government passed one of the most discriminatory and cruel pieces of legislation in the province's history.

Bill 7, The More Beds, Better Care Act, grants placement coordinators the authority to transfer Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patients from hospitals to long-term care institutions they have not chosen and may never have agreed to enter.

Imagine that you or someone you love is hospitalized and, having recovered sufficiently, no longer requires acute hospital care. An attending clinician may designate you as an Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patient.

Once designated ALC, your rights and choices regarding your next place of care can be severely restricted.

Under Bill 7, a placement coordinator can, without your consent:

- Determine your eligibility for admission to a long-term care institution.
- Select the long-term care institution to which you will be transferred.
- Transfer your personal health records to that institution (and company as the case may be).
- Authorize your admission to the facility.

The legislation also authorizes "certain persons" to conduct assessments to facilitate your transfer and to collect, use, and disclose your personal health information as necessary to carry out these actions.

In other words, decisions that profoundly affect where you live, who provides your care, and how your personal health information is handled can be made without your consent.

You can read the legislation here:
https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-7

But the legislation doesn't stop there.

Bill 7 also introduced related amendments authorizing hospitals to charge patients **$400 per day** if they remain in hospital for more than 24 hours after receiving a discharge order. https://www.acelaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Discharge-from-Hospital-to-Long-Term-Care-in-the-Wake-of-Bill-7-Important-Information-You-Need-to-Know.pdf

Where can you be sent?

In Southern Ontario, you may be transferred to a long-term care institution as far as **70 kilometres from your home**. In Northern Ontario, that distance can extend to **150 kilometres**.

Consider the implications: you or a loved one could be uprooted from your community, separated from family and friends, and placed in a long-term care institution of someone else's choosing — all without your consent.

Is this what we consider compassionate health care in Ontario? And what happens to the fundamental rights, dignity, and autonomy of patients when the government can make such deeply personal decisions on their behalf?

The Canadian Press and CBC tracked the impact of Bill 7.

"***More than 400 patients have been forced into Ontario nursing homes they did not want to go to and the rate of those moves is increasing, The Canadian Press has learned.***

There were 424 discharged patients who moved to a nursing home not of their choosing out of 20,261 patients who were moved to long-term care homes since a law allowing such moves came into force in late 2022, the long-term care minister's office said.

About one-third of those patients were moved in just February and March, the last two months for which data was available." https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/nursing-homes-didnt-choose-1.7232542

ONTARIO HEALTH AND ONTARIO HEALTH AT HOME ACT

In August of 2024, Ontario Health acted by introducing an Operational Direction entitled "Home First".

The statistical information provided was stark as was the recognition that it was necessary to shift away from institutional placement to support a home first approach "whereby every effort is made to ensure adequate resources are in place to support patients to remain at home whenever possible, and ultimately return home upon discharge from all bedded levels of care (i.e., acute, rehab, complex continuing care, mental health)":

"Across the province there are more than 5,000 people with an ALC designation waiting in hospital beds, with approximately 46% waiting for LTC. Fifty percent of older adults experience functional decline and increased dependency during prolonged hospitalization. To optimize patient outcomes and system capacity it is imperative that we shift away from an "LTC-first approach."
https://www.ontariohealth.ca/content/dam/ontariohealth/documents/operational-direction-home-first-2024-aug-14.pdf

In November 2025, Ontario Health atHome quietly introduced a new home care initiative offering up to $700 per day to help relieve hospital overcrowding and support patients wishing to return home from hospital.

Known as **High Intensity Bundled Home Care**, the program pays service providers contracted by Ontario Health atHome up to $700 per day to deliver hospital-level care in an individual's home.

It initially targeted at least 570 older adults waiting for long-term care, as well as people waiting for mental health, addiction or rehabilitation services.

Beyond offering a more humane approach to care, the initiative also makes economic sense. The cost of providing care in a hospital is approximately $730 per person per day, compared with more than $201 per day in a long-term care institution and just $103 per day for home care. https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/article/ontario-launching-new-home-care-program-in-effort-to-relieve-hospital-overcrowding/

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you or a loved one is a hospital patient designated **ALC (Alternate Level of Care)** in Ontario, you have the right to advocate for a safe, appropriate, and needs-based discharge plan that includes access to home and community care services where appropriate. An ALC designation does not mean that a patient's care needs disappear, nor should it mean that a patient or family is left to navigate the transition from hospital to home without adequate support.

You can request a comprehensive **hospital-to-home care plan** that reflects the patient's individual medical, functional, and personal care needs. This includes an assessment of the supports and services required to facilitate a safe discharge, such as personal support services, nursing care, rehabilitation, and other appropriate community-based services.

Unfortunately, patients and families sometimes encounter resistance from hospital discharge planners, care coordinators, or Ontario Health atHome representatives when requesting the level of support they believe is necessary.

You should not assume that the initial response you receive is the final decision, or that you have exhausted your options for advocating for appropriate care.

SSAO has provided guidance on how to escalate your concerns within Ontario Health atHome when you encounter barriers, inadequate assessments, or disagreements about the services being offered.
https://www.seniorsactionontario.com/_files/ugd/c73539_a1ff188444fe4901a0a9952bdd66beea.pdf

These instructions can help you navigate the appropriate escalation channels, ensure your concerns are formally documented, and advocate for a care plan based on the patient's assessed needs rather than simply the availability of services.

Patients and families deserve to be heard, informed, and meaningfully involved in discharge planning. The goal should always be a safe transition home, with appropriate supports in place to protect the patient's health, dignity, independence, and well-being.

Know your options. Ask questions. Challenge inadequate discharge planning. Most importantly, advocate for a home care plan that addresses actual care needs.

If you wish to contact Ontario Health Regional Officers directly, here is their contact information:

- **Central and West Regions:** Nicole Robinson - nicole.robinson@ontariohealth.ca
- **East and Toronto Regions:** Vicky Simanovski - vicky.simanovski.ontariohealth.ca
- **North East & North West Regions:** Brian Ktytor - brian.ktytor@ontariohealth.ca

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SSAO welcomes comments on this and other articles at seniorsactionontario@gmail.com