

Regulation Changes: Information for Residents, Families, and Caregivers



Ontario made changes to some of the rules that long-term care homes must follow. The changes relate to:

- Select staffing qualifications
- Pandemic provisions
- Air conditioning
- Replacement homes

Starting May 1st, 2024

Staffing Qualifications and Flexibility

- Homes will continue to have flexibility to hire a person to provide personal support services if they have the skills, training and knowledge to perform the tasks of a personal support worker, even if they don't meet the qualification requirements.
- All regulated health professionals acting within their scope of practice will be able to perform skin assessments to check for changes in pressure, colour, moisture, etc.

Air Conditioning

- More resident choice for air conditioning preferences by specifying when homes would not have to install a portable or window unit, if requested by residents.
- When room temperatures are identified to be over 26 degrees Celsius or higher without air conditioning, for the remainder of the day and the following day, homes must implement a heat related illness and management plan for resident comfort and safety.

Starting July 1st, 2024

Staffing Qualifications

- Nursing student externs will be permitted to work in long-term care homes to help with tasks that are restricted to certain roles, such as skin assessments and the administration of drugs. They will need to be supervised by a registered nursing staff to help with clinical activities.
- Registered practical nurses will be allowed to conduct assessments to help determine eligibility for long-term care and when moving residents to their preferred home.

Pandemic Provisions

- Removing pandemic rules that provided exceptions to timelines for staff orientation and 24-hour nursing requirements.
- Removing certain pandemic-specific admission, placement, and discharge procedures.
- Ensuring access to essential visitors is maintained during emergency situations.

Replacement Related and Reopened Homes

- When residents are being transferred from their existing home to a replacement, related or reopened home, they are able to move in faster with streamlined admission requirements. This is currently limited to homes operated by the same licensee. The change will extend this to homes operated by related licensees, subject to applicable requirements.