
To: All Staff
From: Brad Saunders, CEO
Date: April 29, 2020
Re: Hospital Visits

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced all of us to adapt our daily lives and regular routines in many ways. We are all experiencing this together with the people we support and their families.

Hospital visits is one area where everyone in Ontario has had to adapt to new restrictions. Typically, CLTO staff accompany the people we support to hospital when needed, for both routine and emergency visits. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all heard in the news that hospitals are severely limiting visits and people accompanying patients to hospital. This has resulted in some cases of developmental services staff at CLTO and elsewhere not being allowed to go to hospital with the people they support.

We have been working hard with the hospitals in Toronto to clarify this practice. **CLTO staff are allowed to accompany the people they support if they go to the hospital for emergency or other visits, as well as support them if the person they support is admitted to hospital.** We will ensure that you have the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE, such as gowns, gloves, and masks) to do this safely.

Doctors, nurses, and paramedics may ask you questions regarding going to the hospital with people you support. We are preparing a clear letter you can use to explain your presence to hospital staff and others. It will be available in the next couple of days.

Thank you for everything you are doing. You are doing exceptional work, and I know we'll get through this crisis together.

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May 5, 2020

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The bearer of this letter is employed by Community Living Toronto to provide critical supports to adults and children with developmental disabilities.

Pursuant to Government of Ontario statute, employees of Community Living Toronto are deemed to be providing an essential service and should be afforded all due care and privileges.

The supports provided by the bearer of this letter are essential to the health and safety of people with developmental disabilities. Denying access may lead to lack of cooperation with medical interventions, behavioural issues, and risk of harm to patient and hospital staff. The patient in question needs the support of our staff while they are receiving medical care to enable seamless and optimal patient-centred care at your facility. The employee has been properly trained in infection control and use of Personal Protective Equipment.

I can be reached at (416)712-1074 if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your help and support.

Yours,

Dr. Marwah Younis Damani
Medical Director
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