

# Accountability Agreement Update

## Final 2007/08 HAA Sets the Stage for Assignment to LHINs

The JPPC Accountability Committee has finalized the 2007/08 Hospital Accountability Agreement (HAA) template and recommended its use to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Changes to the template agreement facilitate the assignment of the HAAs to the LHINs, which is expected for April 1, 2007.

What follows is a plain language description of these changes and an overview of some of the related implications. Given that the provisions in the agreement prevail, this overview should not be construed as legal advice.

### Reporting Relationships, Data Submission and Data Quality

The Ministry and the LHINs share a commitment to improving data quality, consistency and timeliness. The majority of data submitted by hospitals is already being compiled in provincial databases, and the Ministry is now working to consolidate data for the purposes of health care planning, performance measurement and research.

So while the accountability for reporting will be with the LHINs once the HAAs are assigned, hospitals will continue to submit data, including MIS Trial Balance, HAPS, HAPS quarterly updates, as well as any other data, to the ministry through existing mechanisms.

This information will be available to the LHINs.

Hospitals can expect to receive prompt and detailed notification of any changes to current processes for data submission from the LHINs or the Ministry, as appropriate.

### In Brief

The 2007/08 HAA template is approved – changes will facilitate the upcoming assignment of HAAs to the LHINs.

Upon assignment, hospitals will report to the LHINs, but no changes to data submission are expected.

The dispute resolution process remains largely unchanged.

A Ministry steering committee for the HAPS/HAA negotiation process has been struck.

37 Ontario hospitals are ready to sign their 07/08 agreements.

## Process and Authority for Dispute Resolution

Changes were also made to Section 12 of the HAA to map ministry responsibilities for dispute resolution to the LHINs. Upon assignment, LHIN senior staff will replace Ministry senior staff, and the LHIN Board will replace the Minister in the HAA. Apart from that, the revised dispute resolution process closely mirrors the existing one, including the ongoing intention to use best efforts to resolve disputes collaboratively.

It is anticipated that disputes in process prior to assignment will continue to be dealt with by the Ministry.

## Technical Changes to the HAA

Some technical changes have been made to ensure that there is enough flexibility in the HAA to accommodate the transition to the LHINs; for example, in the event that certain provisions of the *Commitment to the Future of Medicare Act, 2004*, and the *Local Health System Integration Act, 2006*, are not in force when the HAAs are assigned.

These changes allow the LHINs to assume the role of the Ministry. Once all the provisions are proclaimed in force, the HAA will become a Service Accountability Agreement (SAA).

## Schedule B

Several minor modifications were made to Schedule B to clarify language and make appropriate reference to other schedules. Beyond this, the only other change is to Mental Health Volumes – the measure for 2007/08 will be Inpatient Mental Health Days (rather than Patient Separations).

## Ministry HAPS/HAA Operations Steering Committee Struck

During this transition period, the Ministry felt it important that the existing knowledge of and experience with the HAPS/HAA negotiations process is leveraged, so that the process and its key objectives were achieved. Accordingly, the Ministry has struck a joint HAPS/HAA Operations Steering Committee.

Composed of senior ministry staff, LHIN senior directors, Ministry-appointed hospital representatives, as well as OHA and JPPC staff, the committee will monitor ongoing HAPS/HAA province-wide negotiations, give a heads up on key issues that might impede negotiations and act as a sounding board for proposed approaches to resolve these issues.

The inaugural meeting of the committee was held on Friday, November 24, 2006. Below is a list of members.

### Ministry HAPS/HAA Operations Steering Committee Membership

Jerome Quenneville	MOHLTC	Lead, HAPS/HAA Negotiations (Chair)
Kyle Johansen	MOHLTC	Manager, Hospital Accountability (Vice chair)
Ken Deane	JPPC Accountability Ctte	CEO, St. Joseph's Health Centre Toronto
Kelly Isfan	Hospital (small)	CEO, Campbellford Memorial Hospital
Pat Campbell	Hospital (community)	CEO, Grey Bruce Health Services
Sherry Kennedy	LHIN (SE)	Senior Director, Performance, Contracts & Allocation
Bill Manson	LHIN (TC)	Senior Director, Performance, Contracts & Allocation
Kate Jackson	MOHLTC	Regional Director, East and North
Michael Klejman	MOHLTC	Regional Director, Central East and Central West
Leo Nusink	MOHLTC	Regional Director, South West and Central South
Marnie Weber	MOHLTC	Regional Director, Toronto
Lou Reidel	OHA (observer)	Director, Health Finance & Research
Steve Isaak	JPPC (observer)	Executive Director

## Key Links and Resources

- Final 2007/08 HAA and revised Schedule B  
[www.jppc.org/ha](http://www.jppc.org/ha)
- Dispute Resolution Principles and Objectives for Hospital Accountability Agreements (Draft)  
<http://www.jppc.org/Dispute%20Resolution%20background%20Draft-Consultation.doc>

## Accountability Agreement Update

*Accountability Agreement Update* is published by the Joint Policy and Planning Committee (JPPC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA). It is intended to keep senior executives in Ontario hospitals informed of new developments related to the province's ongoing negotiations with hospitals towards achieving balanced budgets and the signing of accountability agreements.

### Tell Us What You Think

We welcome your feedback. Let us know whether you are finding this newsletter helpful, or write to us with your suggestions or questions to:

Paula Neves  
Consultant, JPPC  
416-599-5772 ext 224  
<mailto:pneves@jppc.org>



Ontario Joint Policy and Planning Committee  
415 Yonge Street, Suite 1200  
Toronto, ON Canada  
M5B 2E7  
Tel: (416) 599-JPPC (5772)  
Fax: (416) 599-6630  
[www.jppc.org](http://www.jppc.org)