
INFORMATION BULLETIN

Oct. 5, 2005

Ministry of Health

REVIEW OF HARMONIZED REGULATION OF CARE FACILITIES EXTENDED

VICTORIA – Government today announced that the review of implementation issues of section 12 of the Community Care and Assisted Living Act will continue until spring 2006.

In May 2004, the new Community Care and Assisted Living Act came into force, replacing the Community Care Facility Act, which had changed little since it was first introduced in 1969. The new act acknowledges that modern care services include a broad range of care options, such as assisted living and campuses of care. However, section 12 of this act remains unproclaimed pending further review.

The intention of section 12 is to harmonize the regulation of all residential care facilities under one piece of legislation and to establish one system of monitoring and inspection. This will ensure that all vulnerable persons in residential care facilities are provided with the best possible protection to their health, safety and well-being. The Province is considering potential financial impacts of the transfers on facility operators, including property taxes and GST rebates, as well as such policies as billing arrangements for diagnostic and medical services.

In the past, these kinds of facilities offered full residential and 24/7 medical care and were governed under the Hospital Act. However, the new healthier and more active generation of seniors is demanding more independent living options. Government has responded by innovating and adopting new approaches to providing housing and care, which necessitated modernizing the legislation.

Bringing Section 12 into force would transfer private hospitals and public extended care facilities, which currently operate under the Hospital Act, to the legislative framework of the Community Care and Assisted Living Act. Such a change would affect 23 private hospitals and 94 public extended care facilities with approximately 10,500 residents.

Currently, policies on benefits and user fees vary depending on the type of funding the facility receives. Bringing the facilities under a single act would make policies equitable and consistent across the province.

The ministry undertook an internal review of operational issues related to the transfer in fall 2004. Work is continuing within government, which has been engaging with facility operators throughout the review, to examine outstanding issues before the ministry makes any decision. Regular updates on the review have been provided to facility operators, and information on the review will be posted to the ministry's website. Results of the review will be communicated to facility operators and residents following the conclusion of the review next year.

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