

Community-Based Specialty Clinics Overview for IDCA Newsletter

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Community-Based Specialty Clinics Overview

On December 17, 2013 the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care announced that Ontario is establishing non-profit community-based specialty clinics, starting with cataract and colonoscopy procedures. These clinics will offer select OHIP-insured, low-risk routine procedures that do not require an overnight hospital stay. Moving low-risk routine procedures from hospitals to community-based specialty clinics will help improve the overall patient experience while resulting in better value for taxpayers. The News Release is available at:

<http://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2013/12/improving-access-to-routine-health-procedures.html>

Community-based specialty clinics operate under existing legislation and quality assurance frameworks that ensure quality, oversight, and accountability. Specialty clinics will fall into two categories:

1. A public hospital-based ambulatory care centre that operates under the Public Hospitals Act.
2. A non-profit Independent Health Facility licensed under the Independent Health Facilities Act.

A new policy guide outlining eligibility criteria and standards for the clinics is now available at:

www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ihf/specialtyclinics/docs/community-based_specialty_clinics_policy_guide.pdf

Health care providers will be able to apply to provide services under the new model starting in early 2014.

More information about the community-based specialty clinics initiative is available through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's website at:

www.ontario.ca/specialtyclinics.