




Essential Care Partner Program

KEY PRACTICES FOR ONTARIO HEALTH TEAMS



An Essential Care Partner (ECP) program involves the implementation of practices across your Ontario Health Team (OHT) and community to ensure that caregivers are **identified**, **included** and **supported** to participate as part of the care team.

ECP programs for OHTs may include all or some of the following key practices:

 IDENTIFY THE CAREGIVER	 INCLUDE THE CAREGIVER AS PART OF THE CARE TEAM	 SUPPORT THE CAREGIVER
<p>IDENTIFICATION Essential care partner identification (Caregiver ID) is used to identify and formally recognize essential care partners.</p> <p>CLIENT DESIGNATION Clients/patients/residents are empowered and encouraged to designate their essential care partners(s).</p> <p>DOCUMENTATION Care partners are documented in patient files/records, including contact information and level of participation in care.</p>	<p>STAFF EDUCATION AND TRAINING Education and training is provided to all staff across the OHT, including partner organizations, on the important role of care partners and practical ways to include and support them.</p> <p>INTEGRATION Essential care partner role is integrated into OHT models of care, including ALC strategies, care pathways, point of care workflows, client assessment, care planning and transition planning.</p> <p>COMMUNICATION Essential care partner information and program is pro-actively communicated across OHT partners, communities, patients, families and essential care partners.</p>	<p>LINK TO SUPPORT Connect essential care partners to caregiver and community supports and resources for their own well-being.</p> <p>CARE PARTNER EDUCATION AND TRAINING Care partners are provided education and support to validate their role and empower them to participate in care.</p> <p>ESSENTIAL CARE PARTNER ORIENTATION There is a process for onboarding and orienting essential care partners.</p>

To learn more about Essential Care Partner Programs in Ontario Health Teams visit <https://ontariocaregiver.ca/for-providers/caregivers-and-ontario-health-teams>