

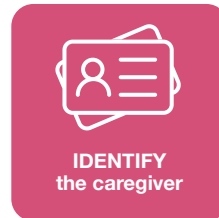
Essential Care Partner Programs

Caregivers are essential care partners that play a critical role in providing unpaid physical, emotional, and cognitive support to family members, partners, and friends in care settings. When caregivers are included as part of the care team, it improves patient/resident health outcomes, leads to a better experience for front-line providers and caregivers, and alleviates health system pressures.

An **Essential Care Partner program** is a set of policies and leading practices implemented by a health care organization to **identify, include, and support** care partners to actively participate as members of the care team.

Whether your organization has already implemented policies and practices of an Essential Care Partner program or are just getting started, the [Essential Care Partner Support Hub](#) is here to help.

The Support Hub can provide **guidance and coaching** to your team, **connect you to peers who have implemented** an Essential Care Partner program, **provide you with resources, tools and templates**, as well as the opportunity for ongoing **learning and knowledge** exchange through the Essential Care Partner Learning Collaborative (an interactive virtual forum for healthcare provider organizations to share knowledge, experience and resources related to Essential Care Partner programs and practices).



Resources available through the Support Hub were designed in collaboration with care partners and care providers. Some of our key resources include:

-  **Essential Care Partner Guiding Principles and Leading Practices** – These leading practices demonstrate the key components of successful Essential Care Partner programs in [Hospitals](#) and [Long-Term Care Homes](#).
-  **Essential Care Partner Program Implementation Guides** – for both [Hospitals](#) and [Long-Term Care Homes](#)
-  **Caregiver ID** – Templates to create a badge to identify Essential Care Partners formally and visually in care settings.
-  **eLearning for healthcare providers** – Three 20-minute modules with practical, tangible tips for providers working with caregivers
-  **eLearning for caregivers** – e-learning module for caregivers to learn about how to best communicate with care providers to be partners in care

Contact the Essential Care Partner Support Hub at ecpsupporthub@ontariocaregiver.ca to get started!