



October 12, 2018

Letter to the Editor

Re: Solving Ontario's hospital crowding crisis — without spending huge amounts of money
Elizabeth Payne
Updated: October 10, 2018

Home Care Ontario read Dr. Eugene Litvak's proposals (Solving Ontario's hospital crowding crisis October 10) with interest and believes that an enhanced home care system is a key to achieving his solutions to transform Ontario's hospitals and health care system.

As Dr. Litvak noted, hospitals and home and community care are part of the same continuum and addressing the root causes of overcrowded hospitals and 'hallway medicine' will be found in stronger linkages between hospitals and home care. Now is the time for real and innovative solutions to build the kind of system that delivers high-quality care today and for decades to come.

Numerous studies have shown that Ontarians want to stay at home as long as possible. Ontario needs to find more solutions that include support for a robust home and community care system that is responsive to immediate need. This would allow home care to play a bigger role in internal hospital discharge planning to ensure a smooth and timely discharge for patients to get back home. This would also ensure patients return home with the proper supports to reduce readmission. By effectively using home care, pressures in hospitals can be reduced and ultimately create a stronger health care system.

We look forward to working with the Premier's Council on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine and system experts like Dr. Litvak to build a sustainable and effective health care system that ensures more patients can be treated where they want - at home.

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