

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée

Health Human Resources
Strategy Division

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JUN 11 2013

MEMORANDUM TO: Physician Assistant Employers and Stakeholders

FROM: Suzanne McGurn
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Human Resources Strategy Division

RE: Physician Assistant Integration

Over 120 Physician Assistants (PAs) are currently employed in Ontario as a result of the 2007 HealthForceOntario (HFO) initiative to introduce PAs into the health care system. PAs have made a positive, measurable impact on front line health care delivery and, along with many other professions, are supporting Ontario's Action Plan on Health Care by providing faster access and a stronger link to various health services.

In recognition of the success of the initiative, the ministry will continue to support the transition of new PA graduates into the health care system through the continuation of the PA Career Start program, under re-designed program parameters. Similar to the 2012 program, it will provide *time-limited funding* to support eligible employers who hire and transition new PA graduates into their organizations. The details of the 2013 program will be communicated and posted on the HFO Marketing and Recruitment Agency (MRA) website in early July, and application materials for potential PA employers will be provided through the HFO MRA website in late July.

In order to build on the success of the PA initiative, the ministry is working to support the stability of the profession in Ontario. Permanent funding for PAs has been made available to Family Health Teams, Neurosurgical Hospitals, and Patient Enrolment Model Physician Groups, while several other employers are funding PAs using their existing resources. To support additional integration planning in certain sectors, and internal planning related to the ongoing viability of the PA position for other

Physician Assistant Employers and Stakeholders

employers, all remaining employment support contracts will be extended beyond September 30th, 2013. The HFO MRA will be contacting current PA employers in the coming weeks to provide additional extension details and to prepare the associated contracts. Contracts will include details on the grant amount, start and end dates, reporting requirements and payment schedules.

Thank you again for the ongoing contributions that you've been making to Ontario's health care system through the implementation of this new role. For any questions you may have, please contact Johlen Jordens, Provincial Planner, at 416-327-1473 or at Johlen.Jordens@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. McGurn".

Suzanne McGurn
Assistant Deputy Minister