

PATH

Partners Advancing Transitions in Healthcare
A first *with* Ontario patients



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is The Change Foundation launching PATH?

We are launching PATH to learn from the experiences of individuals and caregivers and to work together with them to design innovative solutions for a better path through health care transitions. We will use what we learn in the PATH project to work on better care transitions for everyone in Ontario.

2. Why is PATH focusing on seniors with chronic health conditions and their informal caregivers?

Seniors with chronic health conditions and their informal caregivers are among the most frequent users of the health care system. We can learn a great deal from their informed input as regular users of the system. This group has the most to benefit from a well-integrated and coordinated healthcare system.

3. Why is PATH focusing on transitions between care settings?

We are focusing on the points between care settings because this is where we can have the greatest impact on improving the patient experience with the entire health care journey. While there are other groups in Ontario working on improvements within in specific care settings, no one is currently working on the experiences of patients in the transitions between care settings.

4. What do we mean by 'co-design' in the PATH project?

Patients and their informal caregivers will have equal input and participation with health care providers and support organizations in identifying and solving issues in care transitions.

5. What do we mean by a broad partnership between and among healthcare providers?

We want the PATH project to span the entire patient journey. This will involve many different care providers, e.g., primary care, hospitals, long term care homes, and social support organizations. We need everyone at the table to work with us on understanding and improving the patient care journey.

6. How do we define a PATH community?

We define a PATH community as a geographic area – a neighbourhood – where multiple services are provided to seniors with chronic health conditions and their informal caregivers. The community should be broad enough so that learning can be spread to other communities, but small enough to be of practical use and be manageable for participating organizations in the community.

7. Why is PATH limited to only one community?

We are interested in a full continuum of care for seniors with chronic health conditions. Focusing PATH in one community allows us to capture as much as possible about the journey. We want to “go deep” and explore the multitude of services that are (or should be) wrapped around seniors in their communities.

8. What is The Change Foundation paying for in the PATH project?

The Change Foundation has committed significant resources for this project and will cover costs associated with the project such as: project oversight and management, support to build the coalition between providers and seniors / informal caregivers, engagement of seniors and their caregivers in co-design, and process design expertise. The Foundation will not cover costs for direct patient care.

9. What is The Foundation’s role in PATH?

PATH is a signature project of The Change Foundation and our role in PATH is multi-faceted. It includes funding the project, guiding it and providing direction, participating in implementation, helping to build patient-provider partnerships, spreading the knowledge, and, ultimately, influencing policy to improve patients’ experiences in Ontario.

10. Who should apply for PATH?

We are looking for one group of organizations, involved in delivering, planning or supporting care for seniors with chronic health conditions, which will come together, in partnership with seniors and their informal caregivers, to address and improve care transitions. We anticipate an organization interested in being a lead partner in PATH will seek out others in their community to collaborate with them in submitting the Letter of Intent for the PATH project.

11. What is the process for selecting the PATH community?

The PATH community will be selected through a two-stage competitive process - Letter of Intent (LOI) followed by Request for Proposal. LOIs that appear most promising will be invited to submit full proposals. LOIs and full proposals will be assessed by The Change Foundation staff and external reviewers against identified criteria.

12. What are the important dates associated with PATH?

Letter of Intent submissions are due October 14, 2011. Communities selected to submit a full proposal will be notified by November 15, 2011 and full proposals will be due in February 2012. The PATH community will be selected and notified in April 2012. The PATH project work take place from April 2012 through March 2014.

13. Where can I get more information about the PATH project?

The Change Foundation welcomes your inquires and additional questions about PATH. Please contact , Genevieve Obarski at gobarski@changefoundation.com, phone 416-205-1564. Please see www.changefoundation.ca for more information about The Change Foundation.