



CHILD HEALTH NETWORK

for the Greater Toronto Area

How it all began...

The concept of a child health network has a long history. In the 1970s and 1980s, a number of pressures underscored the need to rationalize and regionalize services for mothers, newborns and children to ensure appropriate and timely access to care. Some of these pressures included:

- Number of maternal/newborn transfers sent out of the region.
- Demand on tertiary obstetrical beds and appropriateness of use.
- Fragmentation of child and adolescent services.
- Lack of a systems approach to planning and development of services.
- Inconsistent care standards.

A number of key planning initiatives from the Toronto District Health Council, the Health Services Restructuring Commission, the Hospital for Sick Children, and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care have guided the development of the CHN. Today, much of the impetus to improve the coordination and integration of services is generated by members of the Network

Building a regional health system that will improve the health and quality of life for mothers, newborns, children and youth in the GTA

The CHN is a partnership of partnership of community and hospital providers working together to build an integrated, high-quality, family-centered health system for mothers, newborns, children and youth across the GTA.

Current membership of the Network includes nineteen (19) hospitals that provide maternal/newborn, acute paediatric services, and rehabilitative services and the nine (9) Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) in the GTA.

Together, Network members have the collective ability required to bring about significant change that would be difficult for any single organization to achieve. It does this by pooling member resources, expertise, experience and ideas, and generating creative and effective solutions to current challenges. The Network also works with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to make the changes necessary to improve service delivery, service outcomes, research and education.

Our members

Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre ~ Community Care Access Centre of Halton ~ Community Care Access Centre of Peel ~ Community Care Access Centre of York Region ~ Durham Access to Care ~ East York Access Centre ~ Etobicoke and York Community Care Access Centre ~ Halton Healthcare Services ~ Humber River Regional Hospital ~ Lakeridge Health Corporation ~ Markham Stouffville Hospital ~ Mount Sinai Hospital ~ North York Community Care Access Centre ~ North York General Hospital ~ Rouge Valley Health System ~ St. Joseph's Health Centre ~ St. Michael's Hospital ~ Scarborough Community Care Access Centre ~ Southlake Regional Health Centre ~ Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre ~ The Credit Valley Hospital ~ The Hospital for Sick Children ~ The Scarborough Hospital ~ Toronto Community Care Access Centre ~ Toronto East General Hospital ~ Trillium Health Centre ~ William Osler Health Centre ~ York Central Hospital



CHILD HEALTH NETWORK FOR THE GREATER TORONTO AREA

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The right care in the right place – helping families make the right choices



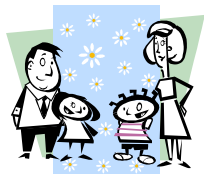
A fundamental goal of the Network is to facilitate the development of a strong regional system of maternal/newborn and children's services across the GTA that will best meet the needs of patients and families. The vision of creating a regional system of care is based on developing strong relationships between organizations offering different levels of care according to the complexity of patient need. Effective operation of the regional network requires that patients and families access the right level of care at the right time.

CHN Vision, Mission and Values

VISION: The Child Health Network members will collaborate to set and achieve standards, and to carry-out research and education activities, facilitate the planning and delivery of coordinated family-centered perinatal and paediatric care of the highest quality. The Network and its members will work in partnership with other service providers and networks to plan and advocate for access to maternal and child health services.

MISSION: The Child Health Network will generate optimal health outcomes for mothers and infants, children and youth, by establishing and enabling a common and consistent standard of family-centered perinatal and paediatric care throughout the Network.

VALUES: The Child Health Network is committed to excellence in the provision of family-centered care to mothers and infants, children and youth. We will operate within the context of evidence-based practice, a spirit of inquiry and sharing of knowledge. We will work together in partnership with others in the community. We will respect diversity and advocate for an accessible, integrated and effective health care delivery system as close to home as possible.



CHN Mandate

To facilitate and support the development of a regional maternal/newborn and children's health services system.

Strategic directions that will guide the CHN's work as part of its 2004-2006 operating plan

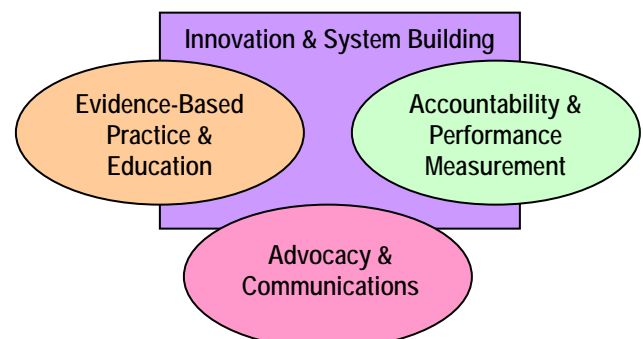
INNOVATION & SYSTEM BUILDING: To facilitate implementation of a true regional system for maternal/newborn and paediatric services through further program consolidation focused on the development of fewer but stronger centres of excellence.

ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS: To strengthen advocacy and communications efforts to leverage the strengths of the Network with a focus on enhancing provider and public understanding of the role, achievements and potential of the Network.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE: To promote greater consistency in practice and service delivery through continued development, implementation and monitoring of common and consistent standards across the CHN.

EDUCATION: To build the capacity of health professionals by implementing shared education and human resource strategies to support staff development, recruitment and retention across the Network.

ACCOUNTABILITY & PERFORMANCE MONITORING: To enhance accountability within the Network as a tool for advancing effectiveness to the Network, enhancing Network linkages, self-evaluation and strategic planning.



Helping to improve care for mothers, newborns and children across the GTA



The CHN is built on four (4) levels of care designations for maternal/newborn services and three (3) levels of care designations for children's (paediatric) services.

LEVEL	HOSPITAL	DESCRIPTION OF CARE PROVIDED
Level I Primary Care Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halton Healthcare Services (Milton site) Humber River Regional Hospital (Church site) Lakeridge Health Corporation (Uxbridge, Bowmanville and Port Perry sites) Rouge Valley Health System (Ajax-Pickering site) William Osler Health Centre (Georgetown site) 	These centres meet the needs of women with healthy pregnancies. This level of care is provided by all hospitals with obstetrics.
Level II Secondary Care Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halton Healthcare Services (Oakville site) Humber River Regional Hospital (Finch site) Markham-Stouffville Hospital St. Joseph's Health Centre St. Michael's Hospital Southlake Regional Health Centre The Scarborough Hospital (General and Grace sites) Toronto East General Hospital Trillium Health Centre William Osler Health Centre (Etobicoke site) York Central Hospital 	These centres manage the care of mothers and newborns at low to moderate risk. These centres have functional capabilities provided by Level I centres.
Level II+ Advanced Secondary Care Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lakeridge Health Corporation (Oshawa site) North York General Hospital (General site) Rouge Valley Health System (Centenary site) The Credit Valley Hospital William Osler Health Centre (Brampton site) 	These centres manage moderate risk obstetrical and medical problems, and carry out fetal diagnostic testing. They manage moderately ill newborns with medical problems that are expected to resolve rapidly, including short-term assisted ventilation (48 hours) and parenteral nutrition. These centres have functional capabilities provided by Level I and Level II centres.
Level III Tertiary Care Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mount Sinai Hospital Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre The Hospital for Sick Children 	These centres provide: subspecialty care for high-risk pregnancies; care for unwell, unstable newborns; care for mothers with severe medical complications; care for infants with anticipated complicated antenatal genetic or fetal anomalies that require immediate medical or surgical interventions. These centres have functional capabilities provided by Level I, Level II and Level II+ centres.



LEVEL	HOSPITAL	GOALS AND CARE PROVIDED
Level 1 Short Stay Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halton Healthcare Services Markham-Stouffville Hospital Rouge Valley Health System (Ajax-Pickering site) The Scarborough Hospital (General and Grace sites) Trillium Health Centre William Osler Health Centre (Etobicoke site) York Central Hospital 	Provide care as close to the patient's home as possible. Provide primary and ambulatory care in short stay units to children with limited acuity of illness and high probability of discharge within 48 hours.
Level 2 Regional Children's Health Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humber River Regional Hospital (Finch site) Lakeridge Health Corporation (Oshawa site) North York General Hospital (General site) Rouge Valley Health System (Centenary site) St. Joseph's Health Centre Southlake Regional Health Centre The Credit Valley Hospital Toronto East General Hospital William Osler Health Centre (Brampton site) 	<p>Provide care for children who have more complex health problems requiring the expertise of multi-disciplinary teams including subspecialists.</p> <p>Provide the maximum scope of services of for short stay units for their own local geographic community.</p>
Level 3 Tertiary Care Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre The Hospital for Sick Children 	<p>Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre provides tertiary developmental, complex continuing care and rehabilitation services including inpatient, day patient and outreach services in the GTA and primary/secondary rehabilitation services to the local community.</p> <p>The Hospital for Sick Children provides acute, tertiary and quaternary level medical and surgical services throughout the GTA and primary/secondary services to the local community.</p>

INVOLVEMENT OF CCACS IN THE SYSTEM

The nine (9) Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) arrange for professional health care and personal support services for eligible children who have a short or long-term illness, a physical disability or require assistance due to an injury or a recent hospital stay. Services may be provided in the home and/or school setting.

Making a difference!

The ultimate goal of the Network is to build a strong regional system of care that will reduce variation in services available to mothers, newborns, children and youth by strengthening both the consistency and continuity of care across the GTA. Development of the regional network is also expected to contribute to enhancing the quality, accessibility and affordability of care.

QUALITY:

- Establishment of common protocols and standards of care.
- Better communication among health providers.
- Better management and improved integration of services and people.
- More reliance on outcomes data, evidence-based practice and benchmarking.

- Greater awareness of responsiveness to the needs of the local population.
- Improved integration and coordination of hospital and community-based services.

ACCESSIBILITY:

- Treatment of low and moderate risk patients closer to home.
- Patients accessing the most appropriate level of care/services at the facility and/or community level.
- Improvement in continuity of care.

AFFORDABILITY:

- More effective and efficient use of beds.
- Greater innovation and effectiveness in the use of resources.
- Stronger accountability to those who fund, provide and receive services.