

**Board of Health Manual  
Public Health Sudbury & Districts  
Information Sheet**

**Category**

Public Health System

**Section**

Provincial

**Subject**

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)

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**Information**

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) are designed to plan, integrate and fund health care services, including hospitals, community care access centres, home care, long-term care and mental health and addictions services within specified geographic areas. There are 14 LHINs across the province of Ontario.

LHINs were created in 2006 to allow patients better access to health care in a system that was described as fragmented, complex and difficult to navigate.

In 2016, Ontario passed the Patients First Act which intends to create a better integrated Health Care System for families. The Patient First Act is the next phase of Ontario's plan for improving health care in the province and builds on the 2012 Health Care Action Plan. As part of the Patient First Act, Local Health Integration Networks and Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) are being integrated.

LHINs will continue to:

- engage the input of the community on their needs and priorities;

- work with local health providers on addressing these local needs;
- develop and implement accountability agreements with local health service providers;
- evaluate and report on their local health system's performance; and
- provide funds to local health providers and advice to the MOHLTC on capital needs.

The Patients First Act requires formal connections between LHINs and local Boards of Health in order to leverage community expertise and ensure local public health units are involved in community health planning. The Ontario Public Health Standards and related guideline provide additional direction with respect to this relationship.