

Geriatric Access and Integration Network (GAIN)

Health Improvement Solution

~ Developing an Integrated Service Delivery Model for Frail Seniors in LHIN 4 ~

Background and Rationale

- Frail seniors are one of the most vulnerable segments of our population. Planning for an effective, needs-based, sustainable health system must take account of the needs of this target group.
- Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) has a higher proportion of seniors than the Ontario average. In the next 12 years, the number of seniors is forecasted to increase by 76,000 – roughly the size of the population of Niagara Falls.
- The current system of services/supports for frail seniors is fragmented, inefficient and often difficult to access. Capacity issues and bottlenecks limit the ability for clients to transition smoothly from one part of the system to another. Although many excellent services exist, they are not always well-coordinated and both seniors and service providers may be unaware of them.
- Based on this current reality and acknowledgment of the potential for improvement, development of an integrated service delivery model for frail seniors emerged as the top priority in the 2005 Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant(HNHB) LHIN Integration Priority Report.

What is GAIN?

- Committed and concerned stakeholders have come together to form the Geriatric Access and Integration Network (GAIN) and work collaboratively with the HNHB LHIN to ensure that planning an improved system of care for frail seniors moves ahead expeditiously.
- Significant momentum already exists for this initiative with over 40 representatives from a cross-sectoral group of service providers participating in a retreat (funded by GAIN stakeholders) to brainstorm the common vision for GAIN.
- GAIN is prepared to serve as an expert advisory group on issues related to frail seniors and the services they use. Since GAIN is comprised of stakeholders that reflect a range of professions, organizations and sectors it is in a position to offer objective, credible advice on issues spanning the full continuum of care. GAIN is well positioned to play a leadership role in developing an integrated service delivery model for frail seniors.
- There are three areas of focus for the GAIN:
 1. Development and evolution of the GAIN itself as an expert network working in collaboration toward alignment of best practice across the HNNB LHIN.
 2. Development and implementation of a patient-centred service delivery system that is based on best practices and effectively applied to the demands of the HNHB LHIN.
 3. Communication strategies will be critical to success. Sharing information and education on the GAIN will be vital to achieving its goals.

Next Steps

The process for continuing to plan and implement the health solution will begin with continued engagement of an external advisory support team to drive the creation of the integrated service delivery plan for frail seniors. The process will consist of four major steps:

1. Conduct an environmental scan of the current system, including demographic analysis, an inventory of services for frail seniors in the HNHB LHIN, and review of any relevant documentation on the current system.
2. Scan other jurisdictions for ideas and insights on frail senior integrated service delivery models.
3. Create and assess alternatives for the HNHB service delivery model, and select appropriate approach.
4. Use a solution building approach and staged planning for improved coordination of services for frail seniors in HNHB LHIN.