Dear Valued Health Care Partner,

**RE: Medication Management Demonstration Project in Long-Term Care Homes**

We are writing to provide you with information on a new demonstration project focused on improving medication management in Ontario Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH). The project aims to further enhance the quality of care delivered to residents by increasing the use of safe, effective and less expensive drugs within the same therapeutic categories in order to support streamlined medication selection.

The project, which will begin in September 2016 for a period of 1 year, will rely on the clinical judgment of pharmacists and prescribers (e.g., LTC physicians and nurse practitioners) to make sure that each resident’s drug therapy remains clinically effective and safe while at the same time provides good value to the health care system. This initiative is fully supported by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the “ministry”).

This project was developed by a multi-disciplinary working group with participation from pharmacists who specialize in Long-Term Care, as well as physicians, representatives from LTCH associations and ministry staff. Additional input from clinical experts (physicians, pharmacists and nurses) was incorporated into the development of the project drug list.

This initiative will first be discussed with LTCH residents at their upcoming quarterly medication review or through the MedsCheck LTC process. Residents will experience no change to their current level and quality of care, nor will there be any change to their monthly drug costs. As with any alteration to a resident’s care plan, recommendations will be discussed with the resident or their substitute decision maker and consent to participate will be sought by a member of the resident’s care team as per the usual process. The resident has the choice to accept the recommendation or remain on the same drugs.

Any cost savings from switching to the less expensive drugs will be reinvested into Ontario’s health care system, and will support the government’s ability to continue to fund new, safe and effective medications for people covered under the government drug programs, including the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program that provides coverage to residents of LTCH.

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Responsible management of health care is part of the government’s plan to build a better Ontario through its Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care and this demonstration project aligns with the plan’s objectives.

Information about this demonstration project will be shared directly with LTCH residents and will also be shared with stakeholders including LTCH Administrators and Associations, seniors groups and other health care partners. Relevant Frequently Asked Questions documents are included for your reference.

As this initiative evolves, we look forward to monitoring and evaluating outcomes of this project. If you have any questions about this demonstration project, please contact LTC@opatoday.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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