

INTEGRATE: Early identification of patients requiring palliative care

Background:

With the launch of the Ontario Palliative Care Network (March 2016), regional health system leaders are being asked to work collaboratively to improve the delivery and quality of palliative care services across the care spectrum.

In the South West, this work has already begun. Over the past two years the South West Hospice Palliative Care Network, led by the South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), in collaboration with other health care partners, has been working to improve hospice palliative care services for residents living in the South West through the work of the palliative care collaboratives.

Simultaneously, Cancer Care Ontario developed and piloted INTEGRATE – an agnostic approach to assist in the integration of palliative care earlier in a patient’s journey. This approach includes a framework to help identify, assess, and plan for patients who would benefit from a palliative approach in primary and tertiary settings.

The South West Hospice Palliative Care INTEGRATE project, born out of a change idea from the London-Middlesex Collaborative, will revise and expand Cancer Care Ontario’s framework to meet the needs of patients and care providers in London-Middlesex.

The INTEGRATE project will be initiated at the South West Regional Cancer Program and with care providers in London-Middlesex, including primary care and First Nations, Inuit and Metis care providers, with eventual spread to other counties in the South West based on successful implementation and achieved outcomes.