

A New Model of Health Care in Prince Edward County: Summary

The Prince Edward Family Health Team (PEFHT), Quinte Health Care (QHC) and community health care partners have been working together to plan for the future of health care services in Prince Edward County. Our goal is to create a more efficient health care system that is responsive to the changing needs of PEC residents.

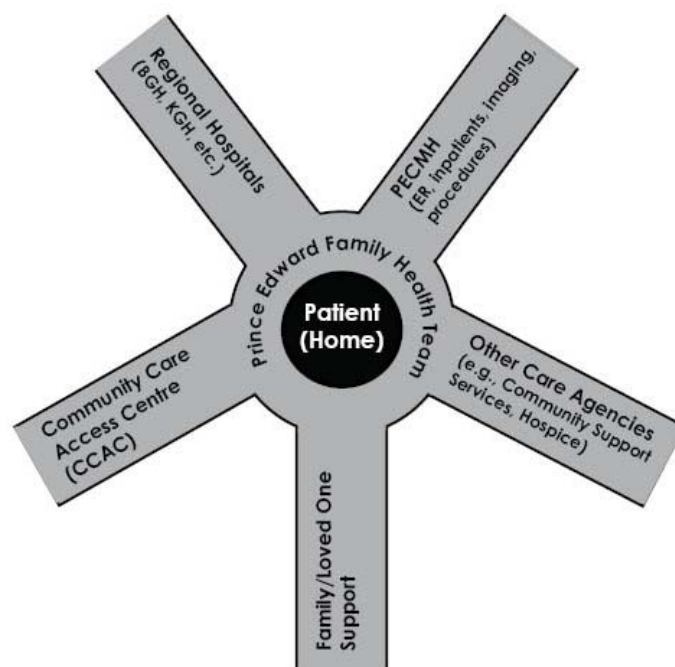
Our vision for the future system looks a lot like a traffic circle with care centered around the patient who is supported effectively and can remain at home. The Family Health Team works with the patient and their family as they travel down different roads. At any point along their journey these roads are easily accessible, intersect efficiently and lead back to supporting the individual in their home. Care will continue to be coordinated by the Family Health Team who will use care maps to wrap care around each individual and their needs.

What this would look like to patients

- Residents have access to a range of health care services and appropriate supports, close to home.
- Care is better coordinated and standardized across the system, improving quality and safety.
- There is even greater collaboration between the hospital and Family Health Team to support the diagnosis, treatment and management of chronic diseases.
- Geriatric outreach teams and improved access to mental health services are priorities.
- Physicians, nurses and other health care professionals across the agencies are familiar with the patients and their conditions, needs and preferences.
- There are shared electronic medical records between care providers to enhance the continuity and quality of care.
- Duplication of services and testing are minimized.
- Health care partners have common processes for intake, assessment and referrals, which make it easier to coordinate services.
- The system is easier to navigate for the patients, including better coordination of appointments and a more consistent, comprehensive care plan.
- Health care partners continue to build on the success of coordinated programs such as Hospital@Home and Cardiac Rehab. These programs help to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and better coordinate the handover of care following a hospital stay.
- There is a continued partnership with Queen's University for inter-professional education in a rural health care environment.

Our vision for the PEC Health System would be to provide: easier access to a wide-range of primary care services close-to-home; improved patient satisfaction; a healthier community; and greater efficiency and sustainability of the system.

Future Prince Edward County Health System



What this means for the future of PECMH

As part of this vision, the partners are planning for a new hospital building that will be part of a health care “campus” alongside a new Family Health Team building. The campus would provide access to a wide range of primary care services in one location – family physicians, nurse practitioners, outpatient clinics, an emergency room, inpatient beds and community support services – creating a more efficient system of care that is responsive to the needs of patients and their families.

The new QHC Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital (PECMH) would continue to have an important role in health care delivery in PEC by providing:

- 24 hour emergency room services, staffed by nurses and physicians.
- Inpatient care for patients who can be supported by physicians from the Prince Edward Family Health Team.
- A robust range of diagnostic services.
- Outpatient procedures that are required on an ongoing basis by significant number of people in the community.
- Efficient access to the other QHC hospitals in Belleville, Trenton and to hospitals in Kingston for treatment of more severe conditions or conditions that require specialized inpatient care, such as mental health, rehabilitation care, etc. (Currently, PEC residents use PECMH for 74% of their emergency room care, but only 31% of their inpatient care.)

PECMH will continue to be there for patients needing acute hospital care. Other health care agencies and providers will be increasingly able to manage all but the most complex cases in a community setting. When an individual requires an inpatient hospital stay, the goal will be to support them to return home as soon as possible. This is important because we know people recover faster and maintain their functionality better when prolonged hospital stays are avoided.

Why Change Health Care in PEC?

Health care systems are evolving all over the developed world, primarily driven by three factors:

- Improved methods of delivering care, thanks to ongoing research and new technology.
- An aging population and increased number of people living with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, dementia and heart/lung conditions. The percentage of people in PEC over 75 years of age will grow from being 12% of the population in 2015 to more than 25% of the population in 2036. However, the overall population growth remains very modest.
- Shrinking financial resources. Health care currently accounts for 42% of every program dollar spent in Ontario. We need to find ways to make more efficient use of tax dollars.

Why build a new hospital?

The current hospital was built more than 50 years ago and does not meet today’s standards for building codes, infection control or delivering hospital based care. It is only about 10% cheaper to redevelop an older hospital building, rather than building new, and we would lose out on many of the benefits of a newly designed hospital building, such as bathrooms in every patient room.

Next Steps

Although we are enthusiastic about the future of health care in PEC, we need to hear from you. Please use the attached survey to provide your input.

Questions on the Future Vision for Health Care in PEC

1. Please read the summary of the future vision for PECMH within the Prince Edward County health system. What else would you need from your local health system and the hospital system to support your future health care needs?
2. Imagine it is 10 years into the future. How will people describe the Prince Edward County health care system and the role of PECMH as one part of that system?
3. How should your community health system adjust to accommodate the needs of the elderly and people with chronic diseases? What would PECMH's role be in this?
4. What do you see as the role of the health care system versus the role of family and loved ones helping to provide care?
5. Are there any other questions or concerns that you feel need to be addressed as the health care partners plan for a new hospital in Prince Edward County?