



BACKGROUND

INTEGRATED CARE PATHWAY = BETTER OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Overview

- There is a need to provide personalized care and wrap-around services for a subset of children and youth with complex special in Ontario who have co-occurring medical, physical and developmental complexities and/or social vulnerabilities.
- The highly-specialized, wrap-around services that these children and youth require must be publicly funded through specialized centres able to provide continuity of care throughout childhood and adolescence.
- A dedicated pathway for the most vulnerable children with complex special needs is crucial to ensuring optimal health outcomes.
- These are the children who - without this pathway – will experience frequent visits to emergency departments, avoidable acute care admissions, intensive care coordination resources, and repeat referrals to urgent or crisis services.
- Failing to adequately meet their needs with a dedicated pathway will lead to negative patient outcomes and disproportionate use of child and family-related community and medical services.
- Children between the ages of 0-18 with extensive needs and multiple factors will be eligible. They will have accessed or tried to access community services and their needs will not have been met.

Who is on the team?

Depending on their individualized needs, children and youth would have access to members of an interdisciplinary team, which could include:

Physicians (e.g.: neurologist, psychiatrist, developmental pediatrician)	Occupational therapist
Clinical psychologist	Speech language pathologist
Behaviour analysts	Registered nurses
Instructor therapists	Pharmacist
Social workers	Youth counsellor
Coordinated service planners	Intake coordinator or family resource worker
Management and administrative staff	

Who is eligible?

- A comprehensive assessment will be taken to determine eligibility. Primary criteria includes a child or youth aged 0 to 18 years:
 - Has received or is receiving community services but whose needs are not met
 - Whose safety (of self or others) is immediately at risk or is a barrier to participation in school or family life
 - Has family complexity (financial pressures, significant transition and change, language or cultural barriers, family capacity and living arrangements)
 - Has complex behaviours that are deemed high-risk
 - Has multiple, medical, neurodevelopmental and mental health comorbidities relating to psychiatric or developmental disorders