

## Common Acronyms and Definitions

You may come across new acronyms or terms when working with different partners across the health system. With support from this list, we hope that you will feel empowered to ask your team if they've mentioned an acronym or term you aren't familiar with. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you notice any errors with this document or would like to make an addition.

**Special thanks to Sault Area Hospital for sharing the foundations of this document.**

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### **AFS: ALGOMA FAMILY SERVICES**

Algoma Family Services is a provider of specialized services for children, youth, adults and families in the Algoma District. Their services are evidence-based, client-centred, family-focused and delivered by a team of skilled professionals. AFS is a member of the Algoma OHT.

Learn more: [algomafamilyservices.org/](http://algomafamilyservices.org/)

### **ALC: ALTERNATE LEVEL OF CARE**

ALC is a term used to describe patients who are in the hospital waiting to move from their current bed type/service to a more appropriate service. ALC will often be followed by a more specific description such as ALC "awaiting nursing home placement".

Each day a patient stays in hospital and is designated ALC is called an ALC day. Hospitals track their number of ALC days as an indicator of quality of care. A high number of ALC days means there is a high number of days where patients aren't in the right type of bed, to receive the right type of care, by the right health care provider, at the right time.

Learn more: [health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ris/docs/alternate\\_level\\_of\\_care\\_days\\_en.pdf](http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ris/docs/alternate_level_of_care_days_en.pdf)

### **ALOS: AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY**

ALOS is the average time (in days) the average patient stays in the hospital for a particular procedure or with a particular illness. ALOS is often used by a hospital team attempting to improve the LOS for a group of patients with a particular procedure or illness.

Learn more: [www.cihi.ca/en/hospital-stays-in-canada](http://www.cihi.ca/en/hospital-stays-in-canada)

### **AODA: ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Recognizing the history of discrimination against persons with disabilities in Ontario, the purpose of this Act is to benefit all Ontarians by: (a) developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities with respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures and premises on or before January 1, 2025; and (b) providing for the involvement of persons with disabilities, of the Government of Ontario and of representatives of industries and of various sectors of the economy in the development of the accessibility standards.

Learn more: [www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05a11](http://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05a11)

## **AOHT: ALGOMA ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM**

The Algoma OHT is a team of local health professionals, organizations, and community members working to create a network where citizens will have access to the right care, right team, and right care setting when they need it. There are more than 50 OHTs across Ontario.

Learn more: [www.algomaoh.ca](http://www.algomaoh.ca)

## **APH: ALGOMA PUBLIC HEALTH**

There are 36 public health units in Ontario established to administer health promotion and disease prevention. APH is the public health unit for Algoma and is committed to improving health and reducing social inequities in health through evidence-informed practice. APH is a partner of the AOHT.

Learn more: [www.algomapublichealth.com](http://www.algomapublichealth.com)

## **ARCH: ALGOMA RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY HOSPICE**

ARCH provides quality, compassionate care through end-of-life to Algoma District families. ARCH is an AOHT partner.

Learn more: [www.archhospice.ca](http://www.archhospice.ca)

## **CEP: CENTRE FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE**

The Centre for Effective Practice is one of the largest independent knowledge translation organizations for primary care in Canada.

Learn more: [cep.health](http://cep.health)

## **CMHA: CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION ALGOMA**

CMHA Algoma provides support and resources to individuals and family members/friends of individuals who are experiencing mental health or addictions challenges. Their mission is to improve the well-being of our community through advocacy and the provision of safe, inclusive, and accessible mental health and

addiction services. CMHA Algoma is a member of the Algoma OHT.

Learn more: [ssm-algoma.cmha.ca/](http://ssm-algoma.cmha.ca/)

## **COPD: CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE**

COPD is a progressive lung disease that makes it difficult to breathe. “Progressive” means that the disease gets worse over time. As the disease progresses, there is increased shortness of breath.

Learn more: [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/chronic-diseases/chronic-respiratory-diseases/chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease-copd.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/chronic-diseases/chronic-respiratory-diseases/chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease-copd.html)

## **CPSO: COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ONTARIO**

Ontario Physicians have been granted a degree of authority for self-regulation under provincial law. The CPSO is the body that regulates the practice of medicine to protect and serve the public interest. This system of self-regulation is based on the premise that the College must act first and foremost in the interest of the public. All Ontario physicians must be members of the College in order to practice medicine.

Learn more: [www.cpso.on.ca](http://www.cpso.on.ca)

## **cQIP: COLLABORATIVE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Refer to QIP in this document.

## **DSSMSSAB: DISTRICT OF SAULT STE. MARIE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD**

The DSSMSSAB is responsible for the provision of Ontario Works, Early Years Services, Housing Services and Emergency Medical Services. The DSSMSSAB also contracts with the City of Sault Ste. Marie to deliver Land Ambulance on their

behalf. DSSMSSAB is a member of the Algoma OHT.

Learn more: [www.socialservices-ssmd.ca](http://www.socialservices-ssmd.ca)

### **ECFAA: EXCELLENT CARE FOR ALL ACT, 2010**

The ECFAA came into law in June of 2010 and puts Ontario patients first by strengthening the health care sector's organizational focus and accountability to deliver high quality patient care. It helps define quality for the health care sector, reinforces responsibility for quality of care, builds and supports boards' capability to oversee the delivery of high quality of care, and ensures healthcare organizations make information on their commitment to quality publicly available.

Learn more:

[health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/legislation/act.aspx](http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/legislation/act.aspx)

### **ED or ER: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT or EMERGENCY ROOM**

The ED/ER, is the department in the hospital specializing in emergency medicine and the acute (serious, or abrupt onset of detrimental conditions) care of patients who present without prior appointments; either by their own means or by that of an ambulance.

Learn more: [www.sah.on.ca/programs-services/emergency-services](http://www.sah.on.ca/programs-services/emergency-services)

### **ELOS: EXPECTED LENGTH OF STAY**

ELOS is an estimation of the typical length of time a patient is expected to be an inpatient in the hospital, based on a number of factors such as the patient's diagnosis, co-morbidities, and any clinical interventions. ELOS does not include time spent in Alternate Level of Care (see ALC).

### **EMR: ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD**

The EMR is a digital file that includes all patient information from X-ray images to prescription

history. The EMR is easily received, stored and shared and readily available to physicians, specialists, and other clinicians involved in the treatment and care of a patient. The terms "electronic health record" and EMR are often used interchangeably.

### **EMS: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Land Ambulance services are now referred to as EMS. EMS includes ambulances staffed by paramedics in Sault Ste. Marie and Garden River First Nation; Emergency First Response Teams in Prince Township, Searchmont, Goulais River and Batchewana; and the SAH Central Ambulance Communications Centre.

### **EPIC**

EPIC is the Health Information System deployed at Group Health Centre.

Learn more: [www.ghc.on.ca/epic](http://www.ghc.on.ca/epic)

### **ER: EMERGENCY ROOM**

See ED, in this document.

### **FHT: FAMILY HEALTH TEAMS**

A FHT is an approach to primary health care that brings together different health care providers to co-ordinate the highest possible quality of care for the patient. Designed to improve and expand access to primary care, most FHTs consist of physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, dietitians, and other health care professionals who work collaboratively. The Superior Family Health Team (SFHT) in Sault Ste. Marie is a member of the Algoma OHT.

Learn more:

[www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/fht/fht\\_understanding.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/fht/fht_understanding.aspx)

Sault Ste. Marie: <http://www.superiorfht.ca/>

### **FJD: F.J. Davey Home**

The F.J. Davey Home is a three-level 374-bed long-term care nursing home located in Sault Ste. Marie. FJD is a member of the Algoma OHT.

Learn more: [fjdaveyhome.org/](http://fjdaveyhome.org/)

### **GEM: GERIATRIC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The main purpose of GEM is to improve the treatment of at-risk adults 65+ in hospital emergency areas and reduce recurring emergency visits and hospital admissions. Older adults who come to the ED are screened by a nurse who specializes in geriatric care. The GEM Nurses can then refer the patients on for further specialized geriatric assessment and intervention, community and home supports, and linkage with primary care.

### **GHC: GROUP HEALTH CENTRE**

GHC is Ontario's largest and longest established alternatively-funded health care organization. It is considered a multi-specialty, ambulatory care health organization and is one of Canada's first consumer-sponsored health care facilities built with private funds donated by local union members. GHC is a member of the AOHT.

Learn more: [www.ghc.on.ca](http://www.ghc.on.ca)

### **HCCSS-NE: HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE SUPPORT SERVICES NORTH EAST**

Home and Community Care Support Services is the new name for former LHINs (Local Health Integration Networks).

HCCSS-NE serves a large portion of Northern Ontario, from Parry Sound east to White River and north to the Hudson Bay Coast. They can help coordinate home care, community care, supported living, and long-term care.

Learn more: <http://healthcareathome.ca/northeast/en>

### **HIMP: HARMONIZED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

All OHTs are required to submit a HIMP to guide digital health priorities for providers, patients/caregivers, and organizations.

Learn more: [https://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/connectedcare/oht/docs/dig\\_health\\_playbook\\_en.pdf](https://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/connectedcare/oht/docs/dig_health_playbook_en.pdf)

### **HIPA: HEALTH INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT 2015**

The purposes of this Act are, (a) to establish rules for the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information about individuals that protect the confidentiality of that information and the privacy of individuals with respect to that information, while facilitating the effective provision of health care; (b) to provide individuals with a right of access to personal health information about themselves, subject to limited and specific exceptions set out in this Act; (c) to provide individuals with a right to require the correction or amendment of personal health information about themselves, subject to limited and specific exceptions set out in this Act; (d) to provide for independent review and resolution of complaints with respect to personal health information; and (e) to provide effective remedies for contraventions of this Act.

Learn more: [news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/38753/protecting-patient-privacy-1](http://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/38753/protecting-patient-privacy-1)

### **HSPN: HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE NETWORK**

HSPN is a collaborative network of investigators, visiting scholars, post doctoral fellows, graduate students and research staff working with health system leaders, and policy-makers to improve the management and performance of our health system. They have a

track record in performance measurement, research, evaluation and improvement in Ontario with expertise in multiple domains of health system performance.

Learn more: [hspn.ca/](https://hspn.ca/)

### **HQO: HEALTH QUALITY ONTARIO**

HQO is part of Ontario Health, a government agency responsible for ensuring Ontarians receive high-quality health care services where and when they need them. HQO is the province's advisor on health care quality and has been entrusted to monitor and report on how the health system is performing, provide guidance on important quality issues, partner with patients and give them a voice in shaping a quality health system, and promote continuous quality improvement. HQO is the lead on the Quality Improvement Programs (QIPS).

Learn more: [www.hqontario.ca/About-Us/Who-We-Are](http://www.hqontario.ca/About-Us/Who-We-Are)

### **ICES**

ICES is a not-for-profit research institute encompassing a community of research, data and clinical experts, and a secure and accessible array of Ontario's health-related data.

Learn more: [www.ices.on.ca/](http://www.ices.on.ca/)

### **ICU: INTENSIVE CARE UNIT**

Intensive care units care for patients with severe, life-threatening illnesses and injuries which require constant, close monitoring and support from specialized equipment and medications in order to ensure normal bodily functions.

Learn more: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intensive\\_care\\_unit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intensive_care_unit)

### **IPAC CANADA: INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL CANADA**

IPAC Canada provides communication and education for those involved in infection control activities. Its goal is to prevent infections and, as a result, improve patient care and staff health in health care facilities and the community.

Learn more: [www.ipac-canada.org](http://www.ipac-canada.org)

### **IT: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

IT is the use of any computers, storage, networking and other physical devices, infrastructure and processes to create, process, store secure and exchange all forms of electronic data. IT can also refer to a department or service that is responsible for all digital services within an organization.

### **JHSC: JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEES**

A JHSC is composed of worker and employer representatives that are mutually committed to improving health and safety conditions in the workplace.

Learn more: [www.ontario.ca/page/guide-health-and-safety-committees-and-representatives](http://www.ontario.ca/page/guide-health-and-safety-committees-and-representatives)

### **KPI: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR**

KPIs refer to a set of quantifiable measurements used to gauge an organization's performance. KPIs specifically help determine a company's strategic, financial, and operational achievements, especially compared to those of other businesses within the same sector.

### **LDI: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

LDI refers to regularly scheduled, two-day leadership training sessions held off-site on a quarterly basis to develop new, current and future leaders in an organization.

Learn more: [www.studergroup.com/resources/articles-and-industry-updates/insights/may-2018/mclaren-accountability-leadership](http://www.studergroup.com/resources/articles-and-industry-updates/insights/may-2018/mclaren-accountability-leadership)

## **LEAN**

LEAN is not an acronym, but a way of working that prioritizes patient/client voice, collaborative teamwork, and reduced waste. The Studer Group works with SAH to help employees apply LEAN throughout the organization.

Learn more: [www.studergroup.com/lean](http://www.studergroup.com/lean)

## **LHIN: LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORKS**

Refer to HCCSS-NE in this document.

## **LTC: LONG-TERM CARE**

Long-term care patients are those who are unable to live in their own residence and need specialized care.

Learn more: [www.oltca.com/OLTCA/](http://www.oltca.com/OLTCA/)

## **LTCH: LONG-TERM CARE HOME**

LTCHs are facilities that provide nursing and personal care to individuals who are no longer able to live independently. LTCHs are also known as “Nursing Homes”.

Learn more: [www.northeasthealthline.ca/listServices.aspx?id=10665&region=Algoma](http://www.northeasthealthline.ca/listServices.aspx?id=10665&region=Algoma).

## **MH&A or MHA: MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS**

The terms ‘mental illness’ and ‘addiction’ refer to a wide range of disorders that affect mood, thinking, and behaviour. Examples include depression, anxiety disorders, and schizophrenia, as well as substance use disorders and problem gambling

Adapted from the  
**AOHT Community Partnership Toolkit**

Learn more: [www.sah.on.ca/programs-services/mental-health-and-addictions](http://www.sah.on.ca/programs-services/mental-health-and-addictions)

## **MOH & MOLTC: MINISTRY OF HEALTH and MINISTRY OF LONG-TERM CARE**

The MOH and MOLTC provide overall direction and leadership for the health system, focusing on planning and guiding resources. Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) benefit from OHT Implementation Funding from the MOH.

Learn more: [www.health.gov.on.ca/en/](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/)

## **NELHIN: NORTH EAST LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK**

Refer to HCCSS-NE in this document.

## **NESGC: NORTH EAST SPECIALIZED GERIATRIC CENTRE**

NESGC is a multidisciplinary team of health care providers who deliver specialized care for older adults with complex health needs, as well as expert resources for health care professionals and caregivers throughout Northeastern Ontario.

Learn more: [www.nesgc.ca](http://www.nesgc.ca)

## **NOSM: NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

NOSM serves as the faculty of medicine for Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and Laurentian University in Sudbury. The School has developed and delivers a distinctive model of distributed, community-engaged, and socially accountable medical education. NOSM is a member of the Algoma OHT.

Learn more: [www.nosm.ca](http://www.nosm.ca)

## **NP: NURSE PRACTITIONER**

An NP is an extended class registered nurse with advanced university education who provides personalized, quality health care to patients. They are authorized to diagnose, order



and interpret diagnostic tests, and prescribe medication and other treatment.

Learn more: [npao.org/about-npao/what-is-a-np/](http://npao.org/about-npao/what-is-a-np/)

### **NPLC: NURSE PRACTITIONER LED CLINICS**

The Algoma Nurse Practitioner-led Clinic is a non-profit agency that provides primary care to residents of Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas. This is not a walk-in clinic. Members of the clinic will be registered to an NP and will have access to the clinic's multidisciplinary team, which includes registered nurses, registered practical nurses, a social worker, a pharmacist, and administrative staff. The team works collaboratively to aid patients in navigating the health system to coordinate integrated care within established community partnerships. The Algoma NPLC is a member of the Algoma OHT.

Learn more: [www.algomanplc.ca](http://www.algomanplc.ca)

### **OCO: ONTARIO CAREGIVER ORGANIZATION**

The Ontario Caregiver Organization (OCO) exists to support Ontario's 3.3 million caregivers; ordinary people who provide physical and emotional support to a family member, partner, friend or neighbour. We support caregivers by being their one point of access to information, so they have what they need to be successful in their role.

Learn more: [ontariocaregiver.ca](http://ontariocaregiver.ca)

### **OH: ONTARIO HEALTH**

OH oversees health care delivery across the province, which includes ensuring front-line providers and other health professionals have the tools and information they need to deliver the best possible care within their communities.

Learn more: [www.ontariohealth.ca/](http://www.ontariohealth.ca/)

### **OHA: ONTARIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**

OHA is a member association that represents approximately 154 hospitals in Ontario. The association regards itself as "the voice of Ontario's public hospitals". OHA advocates on behalf of its members for a sustainable system that meets patient care needs. They also provide leadership through health system research and development and offer education programs that serve to help shape the future of health care.

Learn more: [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com)

### **OHSA: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT**

OHSA provides us with the legal framework and tools to make Ontario workplaces healthy and safe. It sets out the rights and duties of all parties in the workplace and establishes procedures for dealing with workplace hazards.

Learn more:

[www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/ohsa/ohsag\\_intro.php](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/ohsa/ohsag_intro.php)

### **OHT: ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM**

OHTs are a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients in their local communities. Under Ontario Health Teams, health care providers (including hospitals, doctors and home and community care providers) work as one coordinated team - no matter where they provide care.

Learn more:

[health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/connectedcare/oht](http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/connectedcare/oht)

### **OP: OUTPATIENT**

A patient who is not hospitalized overnight but who visits a hospital, clinic, or associated facility for diagnosis or treatment.

### **PCP: PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER**

A PCP is a health care practitioner who sees people that have common medical problems. This person is usually a physician, but may be a physician assistant or a nurse practitioner. A PCP is your main health care provider in non-emergency situations and plays a role in preventive care, identifying and treating common medical conditions, and making referrals to medical specialists when necessary.

Learn more:

[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001939.htm](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001939.htm)

### **PDCA: PLAN DO CHECK ACT (A.K.A. PDSA)**

PDCA is a LEAN-based improvement cycle based on the scientific method of proposing a change in a process, implementing the change, measuring the results, and taking appropriate action. The cycle has four stages: determining goals for a process and needed changes to achieve them (plan), implementing the changes (do), evaluating the changes (check), and standardizing the changes or starting the cycle again (act).

Learn more: [www.lean.org/lexicon/plan-do-check-act](http://www.lean.org/lexicon/plan-do-check-act)

### **PFAC: PATIENT FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

A PFAC is an active group of patient, caregiver, and family advisors involved in key decisions in a health care organization. This is one way to incorporate community voices into health system decision-making. SAH has a robust advisory program that includes several program-specific PFACs.

Learn more: [www.sah.on.ca/sah-spotlights/sah-and-pfac-partners-in-care](http://www.sah.on.ca/sah-spotlights/sah-and-pfac-partners-in-care)

### **PGLO: PROVINCIAL GERIATRICS LEADERSHIP OFFICE**

PGLO coordinates the provincial infrastructure for clinical geriatrics care, and, in collaboration with health professionals providing direct care, provides trusted leadership to advance integrated, person-centred care for older adults living with complex health needs in Ontario and their caregivers. Funded by the Ministry of Health, PGLO focuses on coordinating perspectives across clinical geriatric services (Care of the Elderly, Geriatric Medicine, Geriatric Psychiatry and Interprofessional Geriatric Teams) in order to improve the care for older adults across the continuum of care. These clinical geriatric services are also called **Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS)**.

Learn more: [rgps.on.ca](http://rgps.on.ca)

### **PHIPA: PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT, 2004**

PHIPA is Ontario legislation established in November 2004 with the objective to keep personal health information confidential and secure, while allowing for the effective delivery of health care. Under this legislation, persons and organizations that provide health care are collectively known as “health information custodians”. PHIPA provides a set of rules for the collection, use and disclosure of personal information to protect a patient’s personal health record across the health system. PHIPA also gives patients the right to see their health records and correct any mistakes.

Learn more: [www.ipc.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/Resources/hguide-e.pdf](http://www.ipc.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/Resources/hguide-e.pdf)

### **PPEET: PUBLIC AND PATIENT ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION TOOL**

The PPEET is a series of three questionnaires to evaluate public and patient engagement. The AOHT adapted this tool to measure baseline engagement activities across OHT member organizations.



Learn more: [ppe.mcmaster.ca/our-products/public-patient-engagement-evaluation-tool](http://ppe.mcmaster.ca/our-products/public-patient-engagement-evaluation-tool)

### **PSW: PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER**

PSWs graduate from a two-semester program that trains students to provide or assist with personal care for the elderly, chronically ill, and people with physical disabilities living in the community, long-term care facilities, and select ambulatory care settings.

Learn more: [ontariopswassociation.com](http://ontariopswassociation.com)

### **QIP: QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

System-wide quality improvement is the vision that the MOH and MOLTC provide for all health care sectors, using Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs). Under the Excellence Care for All Act, 2010, (ECFAA), in every fiscal year, every health care organization must develop quality improvement plans for the next fiscal year and make the plans available to the public. For OHTs, an equivalent document known as a cQIP (collaborative quality improvement plan) is required.

Learn more: [www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/legislation/qualityimprove/qip\\_guide.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ecfa/legislation/qualityimprove/qip_guide.pdf)

### **RCA: REHABILITATIVE CARE ALLIANCE**

RCA works with partners across the province to strengthen and standardize rehabilitative care through better planning, improved performance and evaluation, and the integration of best practices across the care continuum. RCA is a collaborator on the Algoma OHT Healthy Aging project.

Learn more: [www.rehabcarealliance.ca](http://www.rehabcarealliance.ca)

### **REB: RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD**

The REB is a joint venture between Group Health Centre (GHC) and SAH which facilitates

clinical research at these institutions. The office at SAH serves as the administrative gateway for ethical review for both organizations. An independent entity, the REB approves, rejects, proposes modifications to, or terminates any proposed or ongoing research involving GHC and/or SAH patients, staff, physicians, students, residents, and GHC/SAH information. Of utmost concern is the protection of patients, investigators, the institutions, and society. The REB also educates, supports, and mentors researchers regarding the process of ethical review.

Learn more: [www.sah.on.ca/programs-services/joint-ghcsah-research-ethics-board](http://www.sah.on.ca/programs-services/joint-ghcsah-research-ethics-board)

### **RISE: RAPID-IMPROVEMENT SUPPORT AND EXCHANGE**

RISE provides evidence-based support to OHTs, using a 'rapid learning and improvement' lens. RISE's vision is a rapid-learning health system that continually 'ups its game' in achieving the quadruple aim of improving care experiences and health outcomes at manageable per capita costs and with positive provider experiences.

Learn more: [www.mcmasterforum.org/rise](http://www.mcmasterforum.org/rise)

### **RMEFNO: LE RÉSEAU DU MIEUX-ÊTRE FRANCOPHONE DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO**

The Réseau, in collaboration with its partners, plans, networks and engages with communities to improve access and equity to French language health services.

Learn more: [www.reseaudumieuxetre.ca/en/](http://www.reseaudumieuxetre.ca/en/)

### **SAH: SAULT AREA HOSPITAL**

Serving a catchment population of approximately 115,000, Sault Area Hospital provides primary, secondary and select tertiary services to residents in Sault Ste. Marie and the District of Algoma. SAH is a member of the Algoma OHT.

Learn more: [www.sah.on.ca/](http://www.sah.on.ca/)

**SFHT: SUPERIOR FAMILY HEALTH TEAM**

See FHT in this document.

**SGS: SPECIALIZED GERIATRIC SERVICES**

See PGLO in this document.

**SWOT: STRENGTH WEAKNESS  
OPPORTUNITY THREATS**

Organizations or projects conduct SWOT analyses to identify internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as its external opportunities and threats.

Learn more:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWOT\\_analysis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWOT_analysis)