



News Release – November 24th, 2021

***Announcing 10 Champion Homes for the
Ontario Strengthening Medication Safety in Long-Term Care Initiative***

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) is partnering with 10 Champion long-term care homes in Ontario to improve medication safety and help address recommendations from the Justice Gillette Public Inquiry report. This initiative is funded by the Ministry of Long-Term Care and is designed to improve medication safety by providing support (tools, education and coaching) to homes.

ISMP Canada will support homes to continuously improve their medication practices by:

- Improving transitions between hospitals and long-term care homes to reduce the risk of medication errors in handoffs of care;
- Increasing resident and family engagement in the medication use process; and,
- Ultimately, reducing the number of medication errors causing harm.

“The Champion Homes have stepped forward to test, refine, implement, and evaluate improvement strategies designed to reduce the risk to their residents of medication related harm” said Carolyn Hoffman CEO, ISMP Canada. “Their insights and learning will then be shared with all homes in the province”.

Champion Homes
(Listed alphabetically)

Bendale Acres Long-Term Care Scarborough
Cedarvale Terrace Toronto
Extencicare York Sudbury
Fairview Lodge
Iroquois Lodge Ohsweken

peopleCare Hilltop Manor Cambridge
Southbridge Pinewood Thunder Bay
St. Patrick’s Home of Ottawa
Upper Canada Lodge Niagara-on-the-Lake
Woodingford Lodge Ingersoll

The Champion Homes reflect diverse resident needs, geographic locations, size, and ownership models.

Quotes from Champion Homes

*Bendale Acres provides individualized care to each of its 302 residents within a safe and friendly environment. Guided by the CARE values – Compassion, Accountability, Respect, Excellence – the long-term care home operated by the City of Toronto is committed to improving quality of life and support for healthy aging. "Strengthening medication safety is a quality improvement initiative that the entire care team is embracing as we work together to reduce risk" notes **Administrator Gina Stringer, Bendale Acres.***

*"Our home believes in the importance of engaging all stakeholders in the life of residents living in long term care. There is a tremendous value in having residents and families participate in Quality Improvement initiatives as they provide experience and perspectives that simply cannot be obtained anywhere else. Our home is dedicated to quality improvement and communicate with complete transparency in all areas of opportunity for improvement." **Brie Anna Munshaw, Project Lead, Cedarvale Terrace***

*"As leaders in seniors' care, we are committed to improving care, every day. Optimizing medication safety for our residents – and residents across the province – is an important part of that commitment", says **Johanna Horne, Director of Care at Extencare York.** "Our team at Extencare York is excited to be part of this collaborative project, and we look forward to sharing our experiences and learnings with homes and communities across the country."*

*"This initiative is an opportunity to improve high-risk medication practices to help create a safer world for our seniors. Collectively, we will strengthen medication safety to provide exemplary care to long-term care residents in Ontario" **shared the Medication Management Team at Fairview Lodge.***

*"Taking care of our own" **said the Team at Iroquois Lodge***

*"For close to a decade, peopleCare Communities has been leading safer medication management in long-term care with our award-winning innovative Clinical Pharmacy Model, which improves resident safety – in particular during transitions – and frees up clinical staff time for more hands-on care at the bedside," says **Jenn Killing, Vice President, Quality, Research and Strategic Partnerships, peopleCare.** "Our team is thrilled to have this opportunity to continue championing and accelerating best practices in medication safety in our sector and the health system, along with our colleagues and our partner Hogan Pharmacies, and we thank the government and ISMP for enabling this important collaborative work."*

*"In long-term care, medication administration is an important responsibility of our nurses that can be challenging at times. For this reason, Southbridge Pinewood is pleased to be selected as one of the Champion Homes for the Strengthening Medication Safety in Long-Term Care Initiative. We are committed to this opportunity for quality improvement affecting residents, staff and families within our home as well as sharing our best practices going forward with the broader long-term care sector in Ontario" says **Jennifer Koss, Executive Director, Southbridge Pinewood***

*"I am very proud to be part of this process and I think that we have a great group of staff with support from the VP of Nursing and the President and CEO", said **Les Froates, Resident and Executive Member of Resident Council at St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa.** "I would like to gain an understanding about how medications are ordered, what the pharmacy does, how they get back to the home and how the nurses handle the medications."*

“Health care providers in the Niagara Region play an important role as leaders to reduce resident safety risks, optimize the safe function of the medication management system and align our nursing and pharmacy services with the ISMP initiatives that measure and reward quality performance. This initiative will enable us to reflect on our existing medication management practices and apply evidence-based practices start our journey in this quality improvement initiative with the support of ISMP and ISMP Faculty” shared the Team at the Upper Canada Lodge and Niagara Region

Woodingford Lodge Ingersoll is very excited in being chosen for this initiative and is looking forward to working together with ISMP Canada to enhance medication safety.” says Caitlin Ward, Manager of Satellite Locations for Woodingford Lodge

The **Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada)** is a national, independent, and not-for profit organization committed to the advancement of medication safety in all health care settings. ISMP Canada works collaboratively with the health care community, regulatory agencies and policy makers, provincial, national, and international patient safety organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, and the public to promote safe medication practices. ISMP Canada’s mandate includes receiving and analyzing medication incidents, making recommendations for the prevention of harmful medication incidents, and facilitating quality improvement initiatives. Information about ISMP Canada’s work with Canadians to prevent medication incidents is available at:

www.ismpcanada.ca; and also at www.SafeMedicationUse.ca.

The **Strengthening Medication Safety in Long-Term Care** initiative is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care. Views expressed are the views of ISMP Canada and do not necessarily reflect the views of the province.

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