

July 28, 2020

Dear Patients and Families,

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, like all hospitals, must have beds available to treat those urgently requiring the level of care only provided in hospital. While the number of COVID-19 cases in Ontario and this area has thankfully decreased, the pandemic remains a very real concern for all of us. We must be ready to treat patients requiring care for COVID-19 and a stay in our hospital beds.

Additionally, we require hospital beds to care for patients requiring timely surgery, as well as patients who come to our Emergency Department requiring urgent hospital care.

As a result of these combined demands, this is our current approach for patients who no longer require hospital care and have been designated as Alternate Level of Care (ALC):

1. Whenever possible, patients who are considered Alternative Level of Care (ALC) will be discharged as soon as possible.
2. If you are unable to return to the place you were living prior to admission, we will need to transfer you from your current location to:
 - One of our ALC units as soon as a bed is available. St. Joe's has three (3) ALC units:
 - Two (2) units at the Charlton Campus
 - One (1) unit at St. Joseph's Villa in Dundas
 - An alternate health facility that can meet your needs.

We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. This plan is important to ensure we can provide care for the many needs of patients who require hospital services in Hamilton.

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