

PATIENT & FAMILY INFORMATION

What is Thousand Island Health Link?

- Thousand Island Health Link (TIHL) is one of many Health Link programs in Ontario.
- TIHL will bring hospital, community and primary care (family physicians) organizations together and ensure that people are at the centre of their care.
- TIHL will give family doctors the ability to connect patients with specialists, home care services and other community supports, including mental health services.
- For patients being discharged from hospital, it allows for faster follow-up and helps reduce the likelihood of re-admission to hospital.
- TIHHL will result in better patient care and strengthen partnerships in the c

How will a Health Link coordinated care plan benefit me?

- A coordinated care plan is patient-centred and links the patient's physical, mental and social health care needs.
- Coordinating care is an important step in improving the services available to patients.
- Often patients could be receiving care in the community and therefore not need to use the emergency department for care and be repeatedly re-admitted to hospital.
- When different health care providers work as a team, care is better coordinated across the broader health system, leading to better care for patients.



What role do I play in my coordinated care plan?

- You will be contacted by your Family Doctor, Registered Nurse or Social Worker to inform you about the TIHL and invite you to participate. This is a voluntary initiative.
- If you wish to participate the nurse or social worker will set a time for an initial visit. If you are an inpatient, the visit may happen while you are still in the hospital. The length of the appointment will be from 1 - 2 hours.
- The nurse or social worker will ask questions such as “who is on your care team”; “what are your health conditions, physical, mental and social” ; “do you have an advance care plan”; “what is most important to you right now”; “what concerns you most about your health care right now”.
- The nurse or social worker will provide information on advanced care planning, family physicians after hour clinics, etc.
- The nurse will review your medications.
- Together you and the nurse or social worker will decide on a plan to achieve your health care goals.
- A copy of the care plan will be provided to you, the patient.