

## Medical Funding Cuts Puts Health Care At Risk

### Important Information For Patients

The McGuinty Government has announced it will cut \$1.1 billion in medical funding over the next four years. This is a serious issue for patients and doctors in our community as these cuts are going to reduce access to vital tests and treatment, and make it more difficult for doctors to provide comprehensive care for patients and families.

### How will government cuts affect health care?

- Physicians will be required to cut back on home visits, flu shot clinics for those over 65, palliative care and long-term care management.
- There will be 10 million fewer office visits, 14,000 less hip replacements and 150,000 fewer cataract procedures over the next several years.
- Physicians will be unable to take on and roster new patients, which will reduce access to primary care, and increase costly trips to hospital emergency departments.
- Changes to diagnostic testing will impact the ability of a cardiologist to detect and treat serious heart disease and longer wait times for any type of cardiac testing.
- Just a few years ago there was a critical shortage of anesthesiologists in Ontario, which caused longer wait times for surgeries and operating rooms were cancelled. Unilateral cuts will make it difficult to recruit and retain anesthesiologists.
- Patients, particularly seniors, will suffer from reduced access to medical care for blinding conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetes.
- Patients will wait longer for diagnosis for commonly required radiological services like mammography and ultrasound, and there will be reduced access to radiology clinics which will push wait times for CT and MRI scans back to 1990 levels.

- Government attacks on doctors mean that physicians will leave Ontario and new medical school graduates will choose to work in other provinces or the United States where they are more welcome and appreciated.

### For eight years, the doctors of Ontario and government have worked together to improve health care across the province.

- 2.1 million more people now have a family doctor.
- 40% more doctors are working evenings and weekends.
- We improved wait times for many important services and procedures.
- And we stopped the brain drain of doctors leaving the province to work outside Ontario.

Now, government is refusing to negotiate in good faith with physicians for a new contract to manage the funding and delivery of medical services. Instead, government has turned its back on progress and imposed severe funding cuts that will affect hundreds of medical services and procedures performed by doctors all over Ontario.

As your doctor, I am deeply concerned about the impact of these cuts on my ability to provide care to you and your family. This will make it harder for all doctors to make referrals for patients to receive vital tests and services, and to book patients for timely follow up or important procedures with specialists.

Many specialists in our community have had to adjust their practices to comply with the government cutbacks. More and more doctors will be faced with similar challenges as the government moves ahead with its plan to slash \$1.1 billion from medical care.

Ontario doctors want to protect the improvements we have made to patient care, and to work with government to make health care better for the citizens of our community. Physicians are calling on government to reverse cuts to medical care, and to bargain in good faith with doctors for the future of health care in Ontario.

**If you share these concerns and would like to show your support, please:**

- **VISIT our website — [SupportOntarioDoctors.ca](http://SupportOntarioDoctors.ca)**
- **EMAIL your MPP**
- **SIGN the petition at the front desk**

**Thank you for your support!**