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MEMORANDUM TO:

Directors of Education, District School Boards (DSBs)
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Executive Directors of Preschool Speech and Language Programs
Executive Directors of Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs)
Chief Executive Officers of Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)
Chairs of Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services Steering
Committees

DATE:

September 1st, 2017

FROM:

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RE:

**Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services (IR) – Update on
Next Steps**

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services (IR), a key initiative under Ontario's Special Needs Strategy (SNS) and outline next steps for implementation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Steering Committees, service provider agencies and district school boards (DSBs) for their work over the past two years developing integrated rehabilitation service delivery models. Steering Committees have identified a number of challenges and have asked for support in the form of provincial direction and policy development. Given the complexity of the transformation to create seamless delivery of Integrated Rehabilitation Services and our commitment to ensure seamless support for families, the ministries will be taking a measured and phased approach to policy development and implementation.

In **phase one** of implementation, current or existing contracts will be transitioned from LHINs to CTCs for students requiring speech services, as well as occupational and physiotherapy services in publicly-funded schools. The ministries will work with LHINs, service providers and CTCs to support the delivery of these rehabilitation services in schools and the transition of LHIN service provider contracts to CTCs, effective April 1, 2018. Where DSBs currently provide occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech-language pathology, these services will remain in place.

The ministries will establish a provincial advisory group that will include clinical experts, sector partners and education stakeholders to provide advice to the ministries on key issues including: the rehabilitation components of *Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) 81: Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings*, implementation of rehabilitation services across education and community-based sectors in a tiered service delivery model, the use of technology for information sharing and reporting, funding and accountability measures. Details about this provincial advisory group will follow shortly.

At this time, Steering Committees should cease final proposal development. We ask that CTCs and LHINs work with existing service providers to plan the transition of contracts from the LHINs to the CTCs, for implementation on April 1, 2018. The ministries will work closely with CTCs and LHINs to support a smooth transition for the contracted service providers impacted by the shift in contract responsibility, and to maintain service continuity for children and their families who are receiving or waiting for these services. Steering Committees will be kept informed and support this transition as necessary.

Phase two of implementation will follow as a result of the advice from the provincial advisory group and provincial decision-making in phase one and with consideration of the varying states of readiness across communities and service sectors to implement integrated services.

Next Steps

With your support, we believe that this phased approach will allow key system enhancements to begin to have a positive impact on the service experience of children and youth with rehabilitation needs and their families, while we continue to work together to ready other aspects of the system for provincial implementation of integrated service delivery.

Thank you for your commitment to and continued leadership on this initiative, in making our province's vision for children and youth with special needs a reality.



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