

**Subject: Medical Priority Policy**

**Date: March 29, 2016**

**Replaces: February 9, 2011**

**Applicable to** The policy and procedures contained in this document apply to the following:

- Municipal & Private Non-Profit
- Co-operatives
- Peel Access to Housing (PATH)
- Federal Non-Profit
- Rent Supplement\*  
\*incl. former OCHAP/CSHP

**Content** This document contains the following information:

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**Purpose and intent** The purpose of this document is to establish a local priority policy that provides priority status for an RGI subsidy to individuals who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness and a prognosis of two years or less to live.  
**\*Revised** \*Candidates awaiting organ transplants are eligible for priority for the terminally ill.

The intent of the policy is to assist an individual to attain priority access to an RGI subsidy. The individual must meet the medical eligibility criteria outlined in this document. The policy does not target a specific medical condition or symptom nor does it give priority to RGI residents who wish to transfer to another unit or location.\*

**Policy**

The Medical Priority Status is granted by Peel Access to Housing (PATH) and applies to an *individual* who:

**\*Revised**

- has been diagnosed with a *terminal illness* and a prognosis of *two years or less to live* by a physician who is licensed to practice medicine in Ontario, or is a candidate awaiting an organ transplant;\*
  - does not currently receive rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance.\*
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**Determining Eligibility**

The individual who has applied for medical priority status can be any member of the household.

*This individual must:*

- Be diagnosed with a *terminal illness* and a prognosis of *two years or less to live* by a physician licensed to practice medicine in Ontario, or is a candidate awaiting an organ transplant. The two year timeframe includes any available treatment options offered by a licensed physician.
- Provide acceptable medical documentation which verifies the specific illness and the individual's life expectancy. The medical documentation must be from physician licensed to practice medicine in Ontario.
- Meet all the RGI housing eligibility requirements, including the ability to live independently with or without supportive services.

*All members of their household must:*

- Meet all the RGI housing eligibility rules.
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**Status while on the waiting list**

While on the waiting list:

- The medical priority status belongs only to the approved individual
  - PATH will monitor the application annually to confirm the individual continues to be eligible for medical priority status
  - If the individual ceases to be part of the household (e.g. deceased) the household would be placed on the regular centralized waiting list and would retain their original date of application if they so desire
  - If the approved individual's life expectancy changes, i.e. their prognosis to live becomes more than two years, PATH will reassess their eligibility for this priority
  - The individual is not guaranteed immediate access to RGI housing. Victims of Family Violence will always be the first priority.
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**After Beginning to Receive RGI Assistance**

Once housed the household remains eligible for RGI assistance as long as they continue to meet all the eligibility rules – even if the approved individual is no longer part of the household.

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**Service Manager Role**

The Service Manager, through PATH, will determine eligibility for medical priority status in accordance with this policy and monitor the applicant for continued eligibility while on the waiting list.

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**Housing Provider Role**

The housing provider will continue to receive applicants through the established centralized waiting list placement process.

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**Relevant Information**

This section contains relevant information as follows:

Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Housing Services Act, 2011</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Human Rights Code (HRC) and Duty to Accommodate</a></li></ul>
<a href="#">Questions</a>
<a href="#">Cross Reference</a>

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**Legislation**

*Housing Services Act, 2011*

HSA section 48

Human Rights Code (HRC) and Duty to Accommodate

Under the *Human Rights Code (HRC)*, section 2.(1) housing providers have a “duty to accommodate” persons with disabilities.

[Human Rights Code, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.19](#)

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**Questions**

If you have any questions please contact your Region of Peel Housing Programs Specialist.

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**Cross Reference**

HIP Policies and Procedures on Region of Peel Service Manager Appeal

[Service Manager Appeal](#)

[Service Manager Appeal Form](#)

[PATH Medical Priority Form for Terminal Illness](#)

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