

Changes to School Health Support Services

Welcome Families! As you may have recently learned, there has been a change to School Health Support Services, now known as School Based Rehabilitation Services.

What is School Based Rehabilitation Services?

The current children's rehabilitation service landscape in Ontario is complex and involves multiple sectors and service providers. In response to feedback received from families, the provincial government is making changes to improve the delivery of school-based rehabilitation services for children and youth from birth to school exit. These changes will support a more seamless service experience as children start school or move between service providers, in settings that best meet their needs, regardless of where they live or who delivers the services.

School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) include Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapy (PT) and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) provided to school-aged children in their publicly funded school.

As of January 1, 2019, George Jeffrey Children's Centre (GJCC) will take over management of contracts with existing service providers for the delivery of school-based rehabilitation services in publicly funded schools.

What is Changing?

As of January 1, 2019, George Jeffrey Children's Centre (GJCC) will now be responsible for all school based rehabilitation services for publicly funded schools in Thunder Bay, as well as in the following communities: Dorion, Upsala, Armstrong, Nipigon, Red Rock, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac, Nakina, Manitouwadge and Marathon. GJCC will be responsible to:

- Manage the contracts for these services provided in Public and Catholic schools
- Receive and process referrals from schools for these services
- Health Card Numbers are no longer required on the referral form.

The North West Local Health Integration Network (NWLHIN) and their Care Coordinators will no longer be involved in the management of occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech-language therapy services in publicly funded schools.

What is Staying the Same?

- The contracted agencies providing OT, PT and SLP will stay the same
- Eligibility for service remains unchanged
- The amount of therapy available from these agencies will remain the same
- The amount of funding available for therapy sessions in schools is the same
- NW LHIN Care Coordinators will continue to manage OT, PT and SLP services for private schools and in the home
- Nursing at school will be provided by the NW LHIN
- SLP services provided by the school boards will continue to be provided by the school boards
- The referral process will remain the same for OT, PT and SLP services for children eligible to attend grade one until graduation from high school
- Any other services that child and youth currently receive from GJCC will stay the same

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What happened to School Health Support Services?

School Health Support Services was the name of the program provided through the NWLHIN. The NWLHIN will continue to provide nursing, dietician and personal support to publicly funded schools as directed through legislation, as well as therapy services to private schools and children who are home-schooled. School Based Rehabilitation Services includes Occupational therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech-Language Pathology for speech needs for school-aged children in publicly funded schools.

Children Currently Receiving School Based Rehabilitation Services: Services will continue without any interruption. Over the past number of months, GJCC has been working closely with our NWLHIN to ensure continuity of service for children and families and to support a smooth transition for the contracted service providers. Your child's established service plan will remain unchanged.

Children Waiting for School Based Rehabilitation Services: Families currently waiting for services will maintain their place on the waitlist and children will continue to be seen on a priority-basis.

Where will my child's services be provided?

Your child will continue to receive School Based Rehabilitation Services such as Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy or Speech-Language Pathology in their school, based on the current plan for your child.

Will my child's therapist change?

There will be no changes to service providers for children receiving services in publicly funded schools. GJCC oversees the existing contract in place until December 31, 2019

My child is already a George Jeffrey Children's Centre client. What does this mean for me?

Your team at GJCC will remain unchanged and will continue to work closely with service provider therapists in order to maintain coordinated care for your child.

In the Meantime:

GJCC has developed information and tip sheets to help you understand the many ways that you can help your child to work on learning new skills at home.

Further Questions?

Please reach out to us if you have any questions regarding School Based Rehabilitation Services. We will update our FAQs with answers to your most asked questions. We will continue to keep you informed as we work together to implement improvements to family-centred and integrated services in Ontario.

You can also contact our SBRS Coordinator at:

Email: tkydd@georgejeffrey.com

Phone: 807-623-4381 ext. 6808