

2005 alPHa Resolution A05-3

TITLE **Health Care Facilities- Evacuation Plans**

SPONSOR: **alPHa Advocacy Committee**

WHEREAS health care facilities (HCFs), including long-term care homes, need to provide on-going care for their residents/patients in emergency situations that may require evacuation from their facility; and

WHEREAS there is no specific legal requirement for HCFs to develop, maintain and test evacuation plans that include the isolation, evacuation and relocation of residents/patients; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation does not require HCFs to develop such evacuation plans; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire Code has specific requirements for fire safety plans that do not adequately address evacuation of residents/patients of HCFs; and

WHEREAS most HCFs evacuation plans that do exist identify how to evacuate the building but do not specifically address the isolation, evacuation and relocation of residents/patients and continuity of care; and

WHEREAS there is a requirement under the *Ambulance Act* for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers to provide emergent patient transportation; and

WHEREAS the transportation of large numbers of residents/patients from HCFs would likely exceed the capacity of local EMS providers; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT alPHa urges the Government of Ontario to develop and/or amend legislation such that all HCFs, including long-term care homes, are required to have written evacuation plans that include as a minimum the isolation, evacuation, transportation, relocation of residents/patients to a collection centre or other facility and details on their continuity of care; and

AND FURTHER THAT such legislation also require HCFs to practice and evaluate their evacuation plans on a regular basis; and

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Ontario consults widely with EMS providers, hospitals, long-term care homes, municipalities and other key stakeholders to implement such legislation; and

AND FURTHER THAT the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Health and Long-Term Care and Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Commissioner of Emergency Management, Fire Marshall, AMEMSO and AMO are so advised.