



TITLE: Notice of Temporary Disruption in Access Accommodations

MANUAL: ACCESSIBILITY

SECTION: N/A

APPROVED BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

POLICY

North Shore Health Network (NSHN) recognizes the requirements set out in the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, (Ontario Regulation, 429/07) of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005, as it pertains to the rights of a disabled person to receive notice in circumstances whereby a temporary disruption is reasonably believed to occur, or has unexpectedly occurred, in accommodation services for the disabled patient.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Responsible Authority or his/her Delegate is responsible for implementing and maintaining this policy/procedure/protocol. Workers, Managers, and specific Departments may also have roles and/or responsibilities outlined in this document.

I. Workers (Management and Employees)

- Determine the reasons for the disruption;
- Determine the expected duration of the disruption;
- Identify alternative services, if any, that may be used to access services;
- Provide notice of the disruption in an appropriate format and location;
- Notify the Chief Executive Officer, or designate, of the situation;
- Provide notice of unexpected disruptions as soon as possible; and
- Determine when notice of planned disruptions will be posted.

PROCEDURES

I. Providing Notice of Anticipated or Unexpected Temporary Disruptions in Services and Facilities

- a) On infrequent occasions, some services and/or facilities offered by NSHN which may usually be accessed by persons with disabilities may not be available due to temporary disruptions. (For example: ramps may be unavailable due to routine maintenance, ramps may be blocked because of construction, or accessible washrooms may be unavailable because of repairs)
- b) NSHN recognizes that people with disabilities may go to considerable effort to access services. In the event that a service of NSHN's that is usually used by people with disabilities is temporarily unavailable, notice of the disruption will be provided whenever possible.
- c) NSHN will provide advanced notification for a planned disruption. When a disruption occurs unexpectedly, notice will be provided as soon as is reasonably possible. Notices will contain the following information:
 - i. The reason for the disruption;
 - ii. The expected duration; and
 - iii. Alternative services, if they exist.

- d) NSHN may provide notice of the disruption by posting information in a conspicuous place at either of NSHN or on the website (www.nshn.care), or by other methods that are deemed reasonable to the circumstances.
- e) The format and placement of notices will consider the types of disabilities of persons who use the disrupted service or facility (e.g. Visual notices will be provided in large clear print).

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

I. External References

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)
- Ontario Regulation 429/07 - Accessibility Standards For Customer Service
- Manitoulin Health Centre. (January 2010). Policy & procedures: Accessibility Standards – Notice of Temporary Disruption in Accessibility Accommodations.
- Ministry of Community and Social Services. (2009, April). Guide to the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07.