

To: All Ongwanada Staff

From: Dina Eleslambouly

Date: September 16, 2024

Re: Intrusive Interventions – Secure Isolation, Confinement, and Time-Out (CTO)

General Update:

Based on new information given to us during our compliance inspection with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), there will be changes to Ongwanada's use and tracking of Secure Isolation, Confinement and Time-Out (further called CTO).

Ministry Definition of CTO:

- "A designated, secure space that is used to separate or isolate the person from others and which the person is not voluntarily able to leave." (Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008; Ontario Regulation 299/10)
- This most commonly looks like a specific, locked room, that an individual is placed into during risk behaviour for their safety.
- However, this also extends to *ANY* situation, in which (a) a supported individual is without staff support engaging in risk behavior, (b) begins engaging in challenging behaviour in their locked suites/pods (treatment homes), and (c) cannot voluntarily access staff, or leave the space, including entire homes if they are locked from the inside.

What this means for Ongwanada?

- Moving forward, **ANY TIME** that an individual is in a designated, locked room/suite and risk behaviour is occurring **OR** any time that staff members remove themselves from the person's space into a locked area, and where the person may not leave because the home is locked, **CTO IS considered being used.**
- If staff remain accessible to the supported individual in their space this **IS NOT** considered isolation.

EXAMPLE:

- Staff working in a locked supported living environment, identify risk behaviour is occurring. All staff remove themselves to a locked kitchen during risk behaviour. The supported individual cannot (a) access staff or (b) voluntarily leave the home.

CTO IS IN EFFECT

NON-EXAMPLE:

- Staff working in a locked supported living environment, identify risk behaviour is occurring. Two staff remove themselves to a locked kitchen during risk behaviour, while one staff maintains a safe distance on the floor, available to the individual. The supported individual can access staff. **CTO IS NOT IN EFFECT**

What to do?

Protocol in BSP:

- BSP's that identify CTO as a strategy will be accompanied by (a) a specific protocol and, (b) specific monitoring form(s). Staff in homes/environments where this will be in effect will receive training.

Use outside of BSP:

- If, for safety reasons, staff must retreat to a secure environment such as a kitchen, office, etc. They must be able to monitor the individual for their safety, either through windows, or via cameras.
- If this happens, a Serious Occurrence Report (SOR) **MUST** be completed, as it is with any other use of intrusive interventions outside of a BSP.

Summary

Effective immediately, CTO will be considered in use any time that (a) an individual is in a locked room engaging in risk behaviour or (b) an individual is in a locked home or space, where staff have removed themselves to a locked area (i.e., kitchen or office) thereby leaving the supported individual isolated in the house engaging in challenging behaviour.

For any further clarification, please reach out to Alex Glecoff, Amber Adams or Dr. Sean Kerry.

Kind Regards,

Dina Eleslambouly
Senior Director of Operations