



Ontario Public Health Association
l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario
Established/Établi 1949

The mission of OPHA is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

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Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

May 16, 2005

Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
Primary Health Care Team, Interdisciplinary Practitioner
Program

Re: Telehealth Services
80 Queen Street, 3rd Floor
Kingston, ON K2K 6W7

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) represents the interests of more than 3,000 community and public health practitioners across Ontario. The mission of OPHA is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario. The Breastfeeding Promotion Workgroup of the OPHA focuses on the promotion, support and advocacy for breastfeeding.

The Workgroup has received feedback from some Ontario public health nurses and lactation consultants indicating that the existing Telehealth protocols for breastfeeding would benefit from a review and revision. In addition, some recipients of Telehealth counselling have indicated that the advice being given is not consistent with current research and best practice. Information and advice contained in the present protocols have been reviewed by members of the committee and we would recommend a number of changes to ensure the advice given to breastfeeding women is supported by current research.

In the best interests of the women in Ontario who are trying to provide the best nutrition for their children through breastfeeding, we therefore encourage a review of the protocols. Enclosed are some suggestions for a revision of the current protocol documents. We understand that the Clinidata Corporation reviews protocols regularly and are requesting they make changes in the current protocols as outlined in the attachment. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

If you have any questions or you would like further consultation regarding current resources for breastfeeding women please contact Lori Levere, the Workgroup Chair at (905) 791-7800 Ext. 2662. Thank you for your assistance in helping us to

provide helpful, accurate advice to breastfeeding women.

Sincerely,

Dr. Garry Aslanyan
President, Ontario Public Health Association

cc. Ms. Marilyn Saunders, Breastfeeding Committee for Canada
Laurie Poole, Vice-President of Operations, Clinidata Corporations