

MEMO



To: Clerks, Grey County Municipalities
From: Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team
Date: March 5, 2026
Re: Grey-Bruce Primary Care Patient Attachment Update

The Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team is sharing the following update on provincial primary care attachment goals, progress in Grey-Bruce, and how municipalities can help residents access primary care.

About the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team

The Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team (GBOHT) brings together hospitals, primary care providers, community health and social care organizations, and other partners to improve how healthcare is delivered across the region. We collaborate with patients, families, caregivers, and the community to design better ways of delivering care. By working across organizations, the GBOHT focuses on improving access to primary care, strengthening coordination between services, and supporting the long-term health needs of people in Grey-Bruce. To learn more about the GBOHT, including its governance, priorities and community resources, please visit www.greybruceoht.ca.

Helping Grey-Bruce Residents Find a Family Doctor or Nurse Practitioner

Ensuring that residents have access to a family doctor or nurse practitioner is a key priority for the Province of Ontario and for the GBOHT. The provincial government has set a goal of **connecting every Ontario resident to primary care by 2029**.

To support this work, the province has provided funding to expand Interprofessional Primary Care Teams (IPCT) in Grey-Bruce. This funding supports additional healthcare professionals—such as nurse practitioners, registered nurses, dietitians, and other team members—working alongside physicians to care for more patients.

Across the Grey-Bruce region, this funding has supported:

- Over \$2.1 million in provincial funding to expand primary care teams
- Hiring of additional healthcare professionals across multiple clinics
- Efforts to connect thousands of residents to primary care provider
(Please see *2025/2026 Interprofessional Primary Care Teams Funding Progress Infographic*)

As a result of this work so far:

- 7,173 residents have been connected to a doctor or nurse practitioner
- 16,389 residents remain without a regular primary care provider
- The regional goal is to connect 23,562 residents to primary care by April 2029
(Please see *Connecting More Residents to Primary Care Infographic*)

Residents who do not currently have a family doctor or nurse practitioner are encouraged to register with **Health Care Connect**, a provincial program that helps match patients with local providers who are accepting new patients.

Residents can register whether or not they currently have a primary care provider. For example, you may wish to register if your provider is retiring or if you have moved and now live too far away to easily access their care.

Residents can register to Health Care Connect:

Online: <https://ontario.ca/healthcareconnect>

By phone: Call 811 (available 24/7)

More information about finding primary care locally is available here:

www.greybruceoht.ca/get-primary-care

How Municipalities Can Help

Municipalities play an important role in helping residents access healthcare information. We are asking municipalities to help share information about Health Care Connect so residents who do not currently have a family doctor or nurse practitioner know how to register.

Municipal communications leads will receive a Health Care Connect marketing toolkit that can be shared through:

- Municipal websites
- Social media channels
- Community newsletters
- Digital signage or community spaces

These materials are designed to make it easy for municipalities to help raise awareness and support residents in accessing primary care.

Supporting Primary Care Recruitment

Improving access to primary care also depends on attracting and retaining healthcare providers in the region. Partners across Grey-Bruce are working to recruit and retain physicians, nurse practitioners, and other healthcare professionals to the region.

More information about recruitment initiatives and opportunities in the region can be found here:

www.greybruceoht.ca/recruitment.

Connecting residents to primary care is a shared priority across Grey-Bruce. We appreciate the support of municipal partners in helping residents access the information and services they need.

Together, we can ensure more residents have access to the care they need—close to home.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Johnston

Executive Director

Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team

execdir@greybruceoht.ca

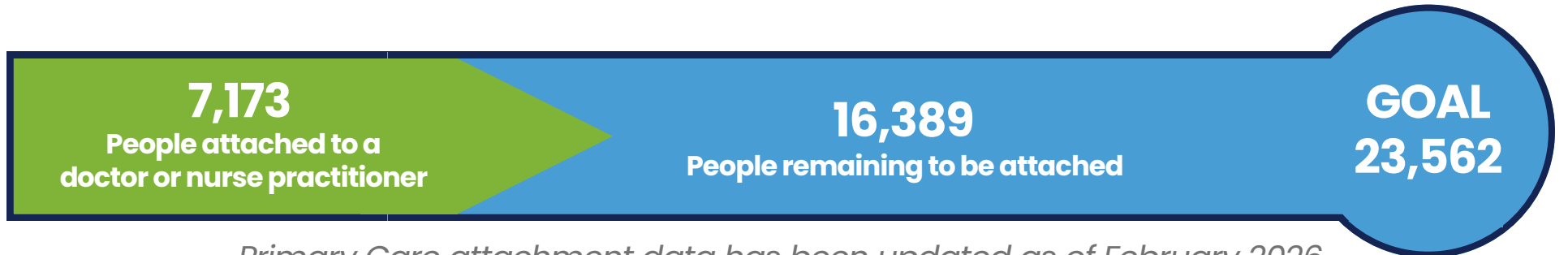
Connecting More Grey-Bruce Residents to Primary Care

Working toward a better healthcare experience close to home.



Grey-Bruce Primary Care Attachment

Goal: Attach **23,562** people to a primary care provider **by 2029**



Primary Care attachment data has been updated as of February 2026

Why This Matters

Having a regular family doctor or nurse practitioner means:

- ✓ Someone tracks your health over time
- ✓ You receive preventive care and screenings
- ✓ You have support managing chronic conditions
- ✓ You're less likely to rely on walk-in clinics or the emergency department

Without a regular provider, people may:

- Delay care
- Miss important screenings
- End up in the ER for preventable issues

What We're Doing – Together

Primary care attachment is a shared effort across Grey-Bruce.

Local clinics, physicians, nurse practitioners, Health Care Connect, and the Grey-Bruce Ontario Health Team are working together to:

- ✓ Attach patients from the Health Care Connect list
- ✓ Support clinics onboarding new patients
- ✓ Improve patient intake and digital health systems
- ✓ Strengthen team-based care across the region

Ontario's goal is to connect every resident to a primary care provider by 2029.

What You Can Do

Register with Health Care Connect to help connect you to a family doctor or nurse practitioner faster. You can register whether or not you currently have a family doctor or nurse practitioner.



How to Register

- 1 **Online:** visit ontario.ca/healthcareconnect
- 2 **Or by phone:** Call 8-1-1, available 24/7



[GREYBRUCEOHT.CA/GET-PRIMARY-CARE](https://greybruceoht.ca/get-primary-care)

2025/2026 Interprofessional Primary Care Teams Funding Progress

As of January 31, 2026



Overall Progress in Grey Bruce:

- Attached **2,892 patients** to primary care (from postal code areas N0H and N0G).
- Reduced Health Care Connect waitlist by **3,516 patients** (81%).

N0G Postal Code – Primary Care Team Expansion Update

Total Funding Received: \$1,143,200

Goal: Connect 2,225–2,450 more patients to primary care by August 2026.

New Healthcare Staff Hired Through this Funding:

- Brockton & Area Family Health Team: 2.0 Nurse Practitioners, 1.0 Medical Office Assistant, 2.0 Registered Nurses.
- Kincardine Family Health Team: 1.2 Nurse Practitioners, 1.2 Medical Office Assistants, 1.0 Registered Practical Nurse, 0.4 Kinesiologist.
- Listowel-Wingham and Area Family Health Team: 0.2 Nurse Practitioner, 0.4 Medical Office Assistant, 0.2 Registered Practical Nurse.

Progress So Far:

- ✓ 1,531 new patients (455 from Health Care Connect) are now attached to primary care (69% of the goal).
- ✓ 4 full-time positions have been filled and 1 full-time position is unfilled. Three sites are under renovation to accommodate new staff.

N0H Postal Code – Primary Care Team Expansion Update

Total Funding Received: \$1,009,500

Goal: Connect 2,175–2,400 more patients to primary care by August 2026.

New Healthcare Staff Hired Through This Funding:

- Port Elgin Family Health Network: 0.8 Nurse Practitioner, 0.3 Medical Office Assistant, 0.4 Dietitian, 0.4 Social Worker
- Saugeen Shores Family Health Organization: 1.0 Nurse Practitioner, 0.5 Medical Office Assistant, 0.5 Registered Practical Nurse
- Meaford Thornbury Family Health Organization: 1.0 Nurse Practitioner, 0.9 Medical Office Assistant
- Peninsula Family Health Team/South Bruce Peninsula Family Health Organization: 0.6 Medical Office Assistant, 0.5 Registered Nurse
- Kincardine Family Health Team: 0.2 Finance Manager, 0.4 Data Management Coordinator, 0.4 Executive Assistant

Progress So Far:

- ✓ 1,361 new patients (326 from Health Care Connect) are now attached to primary care (63% of the goal).
- ✓ 3.7 full-time positions have been filled and 4.2 full-time positions are unfilled. One site is under renovation to start in the next few weeks to accommodate new staff.