



## News Release

For Immediate Release  
May 27, 2004

### **Delisting Schedule Five Physiotherapy from OHIP Concerns Seniors**

TORONTO – On May 27, 2004, the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care expressed concerns about the delisting of physiotherapy services provided by Schedule Five (OHIP approved community-based) clinics, effective April 1, 2005, as announced in the Budget on May 18, 2004. Yee Hong considers the delisting shortsighted and the cost-shifting strategies ineffective.

“Roughly six million patients receive OHIP-covered physiotherapy services at Schedule Five clinics each year, costing the government \$12.20 each treatment. The Ontario government considers physiotherapy a ‘less critical service’ and will delist it from OHIP,” explained Ki Kit Li, Director, Yee Hong Rehabilitation Centre, Registered Physiotherapist, ADP Authorizer. “Seniors will only be able to access physiotherapy services through home care or long-term care facilities. This will deny access to the much needed service for seniors who do not need or qualify for home care, an alternative which is four times the cost of Schedule Five service.”

According to Florence Wong, CEO, Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, “majority of seniors who need physiotherapy can access such services in the neighborhood because they are mobile. However, they cannot afford to pay for home care physiotherapy services out of their own pocket with their fixed income. It will seriously affect those living at home, suffering from chronic pain due to arthritis, frequent falls or minor stroke.” Physiotherapy can help strengthen muscles, improve the range of motions, and subsequently, help seniors become more independent. Because of these benefits, Yee Hong is planning to expand the physiotherapy services currently in the McNicoll centre to all of its four centres in Markham, Mississauga and Scarborough Finch. The delisting will affect this expansion plan and the needy residents in these communities.

Dr. Joseph Wong, Chairman, Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care and Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, emphasized that “only 7% of Ontario seniors over 65 years of age reside in long-term care facilities, 93% of them remain in the community. With their degenerative conditions, the delisting will result in premature entries into long-term care facilities. Assuming 1% of these seniors per year enter a long-term care facility, 14,000 additional beds will be required, stressing out the health system and incurring substantial costs for the government.”

Established in October 1994, Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care is a charitable organization that provides a comprehensive range of culturally appropriate services to seniors. Yee Hong Rehabilitation Centre provides physiotherapy, occupational therapy, acupuncture and shiatsu services. Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation raises all necessary funds to support the facilities, services and programs of the four centres in Scarborough, Markham and Mississauga.

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