



Rapid Access Addictions Clinic

In support of the families of people living with substance use disorder, we endorse the establishment of a **Rapid Access Addictions Clinic** in the Ottawa area, such as is available in the Vancouver area. This should provide services similar to **The Alcohol Medical Intervention Clinic (AMIC)** at The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, but for self-referrals and or referrals from physician offices or other community agencies. We note that the establishment of the AMIC has decreased repeat Emergency Room visits by 13% per month.

A **rapid access clinic** would provide people suffering from substance use disorder with the dignity of timely and medically appropriate care, triaged in the same way as people with cardiovascular or metabolic disorders, or trauma, or cancer, or any other disease process. We believe that the current response to substance use disorder in the Champlain LIHN does not reflect industry best practices. A crucial and urgent point is to advise patients of their options for treatment and care just as they would be advised of their options if they had any other disease process. We further believe that by providing medically triaged care, which should include care by substance use disorder specialist physicians and nurses, the LIHN and area hospitals would be less exposed to related liability.

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