

**MEDICAL REFORM GROUP DECRIES EXCLUSION OF  
NON-FOR-PROFIT PROVIDERS FROM HOME CARE BIDDING**

January 17, 2007 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton CCAC has decided that the Victorian Order of Nurses and St. Joseph's Health Care, the largest not-for-profit agencies in the region, are not eligible in a "competitive bidding" process to submit requests for proposals to provide home care services in Hamilton. "The decision," said MRG spokesperson Dr. Shelly Sender, "is the latest demonstration that the competitive bidding process is a catastrophe".

The process has been a disaster for home care workers who have suffered a loss of job security unique in the health sector. "Demoralized, alienated workers do not deliver optimal quality health care" commented another MRG spokesperson, Dr. Ahmed Bayoumi.

"The process has been a disaster for primary care physicians," said Dr. Sender, who works as a family physician in Hamilton. "Family doctors have lost the effective partnership with home care workers in managing their frail elderly patients. The home care workers who see patients are less accessible - or inaccessible - for co-operative patient management."

The biggest disaster is deterioration of care for home care recipients. "Loss of continuity, and decreased patient-oriented care mean a major loss of support for the most vulnerable members of our community," said Dr. Bayoumi.

The deterioration in quality of care is consistent with other evidence regarding for-profit versus not-for-profit health care provision. For-profit hospitals and dialysis facilities have higher death rates than not-for-profit facilities.

"When dollars that should be going to health care go to profit," Dr. Sender concluded "providers cut corners and patients suffer. The McGuinty government has established rules that benefit for-profit providers while hurting dedicated health workers, concerned physicians, and the vulnerable elderly."

- 30 -

**For more information:**

Dr. Ahmed Bayoumi 416 685 9101

Janet Maher 416 735 0698 or by

Email: [medicalreform@sympatico.ca](mailto:medicalreform@sympatico.ca)