

Accessible Patient Service Policy

Statement of Commitment to Accessibility

K-W CPS is committed to providing its services in a way that respects the dignity and independence of persons with disabilities. This commitment will be integrated wherever possible and will ensure that persons with disabilities will benefit from the same service, in similar ways as our other patients and stakeholders.

K-W CPS is committed to ensuring that every employee and patient receives equitable treatment with respect to employment and services, without discrimination, and receives accommodation where required, in accordance with the provisions of the Code and the AODA and its Regulations. K-W CPS will meet the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities in a timely manner.

Intent

This policy is intended to meet the requirements of *Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07* under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, and applies to the provision of goods and services to the public or other third parties, not to the goods themselves.

All services provided by K-W CPS shall follow the principles of dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity.

Scope

- This policy applies to the provision of services at premises owned and operated by K-W CPS.
- This policy applies to employees, volunteers, agents and/or contractors who deal with the public or other third parties who act on behalf of K-W CPS, including when the provision of services occurs off the premises of K-W CPS such as: delivery services, call centers, vendors, drivers, catering, and third-party marketing agencies.
- The section of this policy that addresses the use of guide dogs, service animals and service dogs only applies to the provision of services that take place at premises owned and operated by K-W CPS.
- This policy shall also apply to all persons who participate in the development of K-W CPS's policies, practices, and procedures governing the provision of goods and services to members of the public or third parties.

Definitions

Assistive Device – a technical aid, communication device, or other instrument used to maintain or improve the functional abilities of people with disabilities. Personal assistive devices are typically devices that patients bring with them (i.e., wheelchair, walker, or a personal oxygen tank) that might assist them in hearing, seeing, communicating, moving, breathing, remembering, and/or reading.

Disability – the term disability as defined by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, and the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, refers to:

any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation, or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect, or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device
 a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability
 a learning disability, or dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language
 a mental disorder; or
 an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997.

Guide Dog – a working dog that has been highly trained at one of the facilities listed in Ontario Regulation 58 under the *Blind Persons' Rights Act*, to provide mobility, safety, and increased independence for people who are blind.

Service Animal – as reflected in *Ontario Regulation 429/07*, an animal is a service animal for a person with a disability if:

it is readily apparent that the animal is used by the person for reasons relating to his or her disability; or
 if the person provides a letter from a physician or nurse confirming that the person requires the animal for reasons relating to the disability.

Service Dog – as reflected in *Health Protection and Promotion Act, Ontario Regulation 562* a dog other than a guide dog for the blind is a service dog if:

it is readily apparent to an average person that the dog functions as a service dog for a person with a medical disability; or
 the person who requires the dog can provide on request a letter from a physician or nurse confirming that the person requires a service dog.

Support Person – as reflected in *Ontario Regulation 429/07*, a support person is, in relation to a person with a disability, another person who accompanies him or her in order to help with communication, mobility, personal care, medical needs, or access to goods and services.

General Principles

In accordance with the *Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07*, this policy addresses the following:

- The Provision of Goods and Services to Persons with Disabilities
- The Use of Assistive Devices

- The Use of Guide Dogs, Service Animals and Service Dogs
- The Use of Support Persons
- Notice of Service Disruptions
- Customer Feedback
- Training
- Notice of Availability and Format of Required Documents

The Provision of Services to Persons with Disabilities

K-W CPS will make every reasonable effort to ensure that its policies, practices, and procedures are consistent with the principles of dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity by:

- Ensuring that all patients receive the same value and quality
- Allowing patients with disabilities to do things in their own ways, at their own pace when accessing goods and services if this does not pose a safety risk
- Using alternative methods when possible to ensure that patients with disabilities have access to the same services, in the same place, and in a similar manner
- Considering individual needs when providing goods and services
- Communicating in a manner that considers the customer's disability.

Assistive Devices

Customer's own assistive device(s):

Persons with disabilities may use their own assistive devices as required when accessing goods or services provided by K-W CPS.

In cases where the assistive device presents a safety concern, or where accessibility might be an issue, other reasonable measures will be taken to ensure the access of goods and services. For example, open flames and oxygen tanks cannot be near one another. Therefore, the accommodation of a customer with an oxygen tank may involve ensuring that the customer is in a location that would be considered safe for both the customer and business. Or, where elevators are not present and where an individual requires assistive devices for the purposes of mobility, service will be provided in a location that meets the needs of the customer.

Assistive devices provided by K-W CPS:

The following assistive devices are available on a first come, first serve basis and upon request, to assist patients in accessing our goods and services:

- Stools
- Wheelchairs

Guide Dogs, Service Animals and Service Dogs

A customer with a disability who is accompanied by guide dog, service animal, or service dog will be allowed access to premises that are open to the public unless otherwise excluded by law. "No pet" policies do not apply to guide dogs, service animals and/or service dogs.

Recognizing a Guide Dog, Service Dog and/or Service Animal:

If it is not readily apparent that the animal is being used by the customer for reasons relating to his or her disability, K-W CPS may request verification from the customer.

Verification may include:

- a letter from a physician or nurse confirming that the person requires the animal for reasons related to the disability
- a valid identification card signed by the Attorney General of Canada
- a certificate of training from a recognized guide dog or service animal training school

Care and Control of the Animal:

The customer who is accompanied by a guide dog, service dog and/or service animal is responsible for maintaining care and control of the animal at all time.

Allergies:

If a health and safety concern presents itself, for example in the form of a severe allergy to the animal, K-W CPS will make all reasonable efforts to meet the needs of all individuals.

Support Persons

If a customer with a disability is accompanied by a support person, K-W CPS will ensure that both persons are allowed to enter the premises together, and that the customer is not prevented from having access to the support person.

There may be times where seating availability prevents the customer and support person from sitting beside each other. In these situations, K-W CPS will make every reasonable attempt to resolve the issue.

In situations where confidential information might be discussed, consent will be obtained from the customer prior to any conversation where confidential information might be discussed.

Notice of Disruptions in Service

Service disruptions may occur due to reasons that may or may not be within the control or knowledge of K-W CPS. In the event of any temporary disruptions to facilities or services that customers with disabilities rely on to access or use K-W CPS's goods or services, reasonable efforts will be made to provide advance notice. In some circumstances, such as unplanned temporary disruptions, advance notice may not be possible.

If a notification needs to be posted, the following information will be included unless it is not readily available or known:

- goods or services that are disrupted or unavailable
- reason for the disruption

- anticipated duration
- a description of alternative services or options

Notifications Options:

When disruptions occur, K-W CPS will provide notice by:

- posting notices in conspicuous places, including the point of disruption, the main entrance, and the nearest accessible entrance to the service disruption and/or on the K-W CPS website
- contacting patients with appointments
- verbally notifying patients when they are making a reservation or appointment
- any other method that may be reasonable under the circumstances

Feedback Process

K-W CPS shall provide patients with the opportunity to provide feedback on the service provided to patients with disabilities. Information about the feedback process will be readily available to all patients, and notice of the process will be made available via the K-W CPS Website (www.kwcps.com) or via survey forms that are asked of patients twice a year but can be requested at any time. Feedback forms, along with alternate methods of providing feedback, such as verbally (in person or by telephone) or written (handwritten, delivered, website or email), will be available upon request.

Patients can submit feedback to:

Kimberly Jozkow (K-W CPS Office Manager)
430 The Boardwalk Suite 206
Waterloo, ON, N2T 0C1
Phone: 519-741-5252 ext. 100
Fax: 519-741-5772
E-mail: kim.jozkow@kwcps.com

Patients who wish to provide feedback verbally, or by completing an onsite customer feedback form, can do so with any K-W CPS employee.

Patients who provide formal feedback will receive acknowledgement of their feedback, along with any resulting actions based on concerns or complaints that were submitted.

Ongoing evaluation of CPS Accessibility Policies & Procedures

K-W CPS in conjunction with the JHSC will endeavour to continually assess and improve access and eliminate barriers to patients and staff who interact with all aspects of K-W CPS.

While all policies will be reviewed annual, the details of this Accessible Patient Service policy will be reviewed at the JHSC at a minimum every five years.

Training

Training will be provided to: All employees who deal with the public, or other third parties who act on behalf of K-W CPS, and those who are involved in the development and approval of customer service policies, practices, and procedures.

Training Provisions:

- As reflected in *Ontario Regulation 429/07*, regardless of the format, training will cover the following:
- A review of the purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.
- A review of the requirements of the *Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07*.
- Instructions on how to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities.
- Instructions on how to interact with people with disabilities who:
 - Use assistive devices
 - Require the assistance of a guide dog, service dog or other service animal, or
 - Require the use of a support person (including the handling of admission fees).
- Instructions on how to use equipment or devices that are available at our premises, or that we provide to assist people with disabilities.
- Instructions on what to do if a person with a disability is having difficulty accessing your services.
- K-W CPS's policies, procedures, and practices pertaining to providing accessible service to patients with disabilities.

Training Schedule:

K-W CPS will provide AODA-specific training to all staff on an annual basis. Training will be provided to new employees as appropriate. Revised training will be provided in the event of changes to legislation, procedures and/or practices.

Record of Training:

K-W CPS will keep a record of training including the dates training was provided and the number of employees who attended the training.

Administration

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy or its related procedures, please contact:

Kimberly Jozkow (K-W CPS Office Manager)
430 The Boardwalk Suite 206
Waterloo, ON, N2T 0C1
Phone: 519-741-5252 ext 100
Fax: 519-741-5772
E-Mail: kim.jozkow@kwcps.com

This policy and its related procedures will be reviewed as required in the event of legislative changes.

Referenced Documents

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005

Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07

Blind Person's Rights Act, 1990

Dog Owners' Liability Act, Ontario

Food Safety and Quality Act 2001, Ontario Regulation 31/05

Health Protection and Promotion Act, Ontario Regulation 562

Ontario Human Rights Code, 1990