

Quality standard: Live-in treatment in the child and youth mental health, substance use health, and addictions sector

What is a quality standard?

A quality standard is a resource that has clear, practical, and ambitious statements describing the practices, processes, and supports required to provide the highest quality care, based on the best available evidence.

Why is it needed?

Live-in treatment programs play a critical role in Ontario's continuum of care.

This quality standard sets clear, evidence-based expectations that improve consistency, strengthen care, and support safer transitions into and out of live-in treatment.

What is the scope?

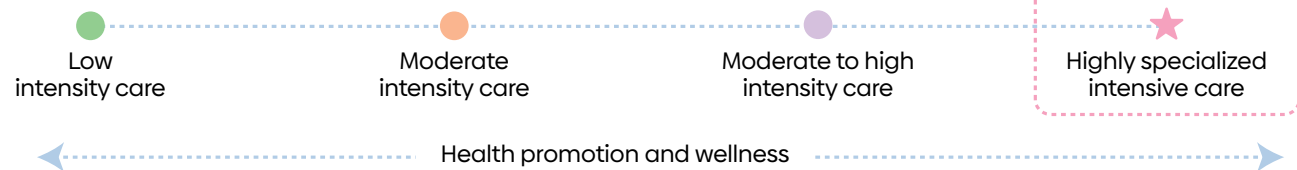
The quality standard focuses on live-in treatment programs that serve infants, children, young people, and caregivers receiving services within the child and youth mental health, substance use health, and addictions sector.

What is live-in treatment?

Ontario's mental health, substance use health, and addictions system includes a continuum of care with varying types and intensities of services to meet the diverse needs, goals, and preferences of children, youth, and caregivers.

Continuum of care

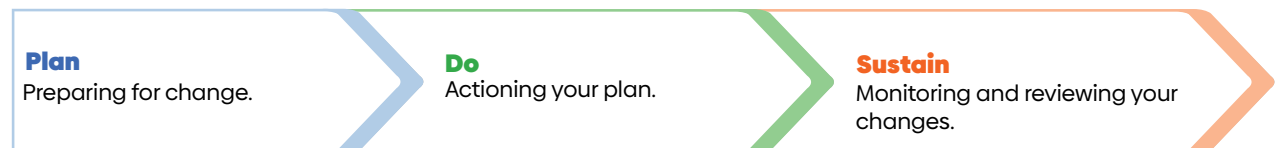
Live-in treatment is an intensive service. It is out-of-home treatment for children and youth who are dealing with mental health or substance use health challenges that impair their functioning at home, school and/or in the community, and require an intensive level of intervention. Treatment is delivered within a 24-hour per day environment by an inter-professional, multi-disciplinary team, making therapeutic use of the daily living milieu.



Implementing the quality standard

The quality standard contains quality statements, quality indicators, promising practices, quotes, practical examples, descriptions for different audiences, implementation considerations for each of its 10 core principles.

Our implementation resources and supports are here to help you move these ideas into practice. You can tailor the quality standard to your community needs and values by following these stages:



Knowledge Institute on Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions

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Ready to get started?

Check out the implementation resources on [our website](#).



Core principles quick reference

Foundations of treatment

- Live-in treatment is child- and youth-centred.
- Live-in treatment programs encourage and empower caregiver involvement.
- Live-in treatment is equitable, inclusive, and trauma-informed.
- Live-in treatment programs support the unique needs of young people with concurrent disorders and complex needs.



Delivery of treatment

- Live-in treatment is rooted in evidence-based clinical program models and treatment modalities.
- Live-in treatment programs purposefully integrate treatment and care.
- Live-in treatment is grounded in staff capacity, competencies, and well-being.



Pathways in and out of treatment

- Live-in treatment programs ensure a smooth and coordinated transition into treatment, where the right services are matched to a young person's needs and goals.
- Live-in treatment programs provide a smooth and coordinated transition out of treatment.



Sustaining high-quality treatment

- Live-in treatment programs commit to continuous quality improvement.

