

Physician Associations: Getting Started

Definition and relationship to OHTs

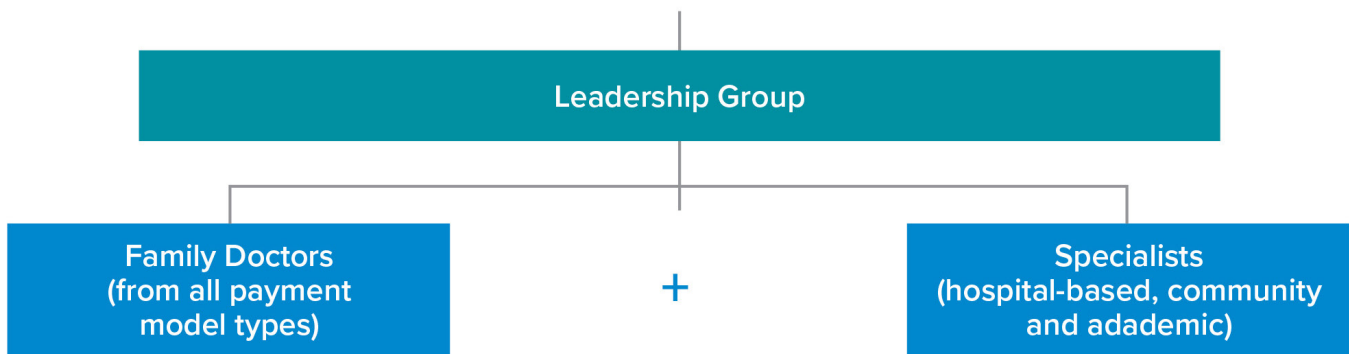
What is a physician association?

A physician association (or network) is a group of physicians in your area, including both family doctors and specialists, that comes together to establish a unified voice for physicians and influence local decision making.



You may choose to call your group a **physician association**, a **network**, or some other name. These are all valid choices.

Physician Association Membership



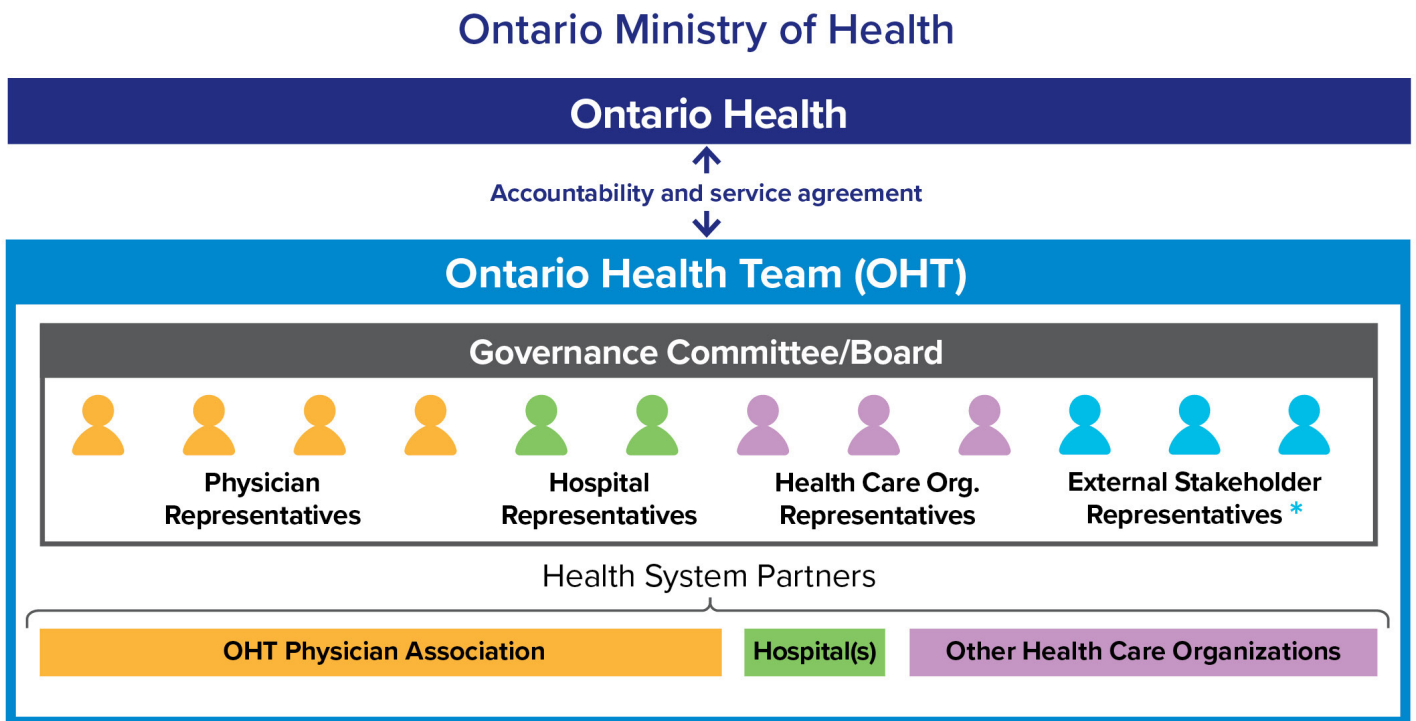
What are the benefits of a physician association?

In addition to serving as a unified voice for physicians to influence local decision making, physician associations can improve information sharing and foster strong relationships among physicians in a region to support changes in health-care delivery.

How do physician associations relate to OHTs?

Representatives of the physician association can be elected or appointed to be part of the OHT leadership group where they represent the voice of the physician. As individuals who are part of and selected by the physician association, which represents a broad group of physicians, they are able to voice the concerns and opinions of the association. Physician representation on the OHT leadership group is essential to the success of OHTs, and physician associations offer a way to achieve this goal.

This diagram shows one example of an OHT governance model. Yours may look different.



* Ontario Government requires OHTs to include patients in their governance

How do we become part of an association?

Participation in a physician association is voluntary. If you decide to join your local physician association, you will sign a physician association agreement to indicate your commitment. The physician association agreement is a document that outlines the rules for how your physician association operates. Participating in a physician association does not mean you have signed up to participate in the local OHT.

To learn more about your local physician association and how to get involved, contact your OMA Regional Manager: www.OMA.org/regional-managers