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# Policy Statement

## Énoncé de politique

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Association des hôpitaux du Canada

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### APPROACH TO THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE

The mission of the Canadian Hospital Association is to promote a humane, effective, efficient and integrated health system of the highest quality. The association views health services delivery in terms of a range of service alternatives along an integrated continuum of care. Health care facilities, as part of this continuum, promote health, prevent premature institutionalization, and provide, in efficient organizational settings, different levels and types of care which meet accepted standards of quality.

The Canadian Hospital Association endorses the World Health Organization view of health as the ability to achieve one's health potential and to respond positively to the challenges of the environment:

"Health is the extent to which an individual or group is able, on the one hand, to realize aspirations and satisfy needs; and, on the other hand, to change or cope with the environment. Health is therefore, seen as a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living; it is a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities". (World Health Organization 1984)

Based on this positive definition of health which goes beyond just the absence of disease, the Canadian Hospital Association believes that health promotion is the encompassing framework for enabling people to increase control over personal and environmental factors in order to improve their health potential.

CHA believes that an integrated approach is necessary to implement the health promotion framework. Health is influenced by many factors such as human biology, personal behaviour, the psycho-social and physical environment, lifestyle, the health care system as well as the interaction of these factors, among others. An integrated approach recognizes the fundamental link between people and their total environment and attempts to improve health status and meet health care needs by integrating resources in relation to all aspects of the consumer's health; that is, in relation to the whole person. The interdisciplinary health care team and the consumer of care are partners in caring for and healing conditions of illness, postponing the impact of disability, and, improving health status, health maintenance and health potential.

Approved by CHA Long Term Care Committee 1989 01 10.  
Approved by CHA Public Affairs and Planning Committee 1989 04 21.  
Approved by CHA Board of Directors 1989 12 08.