



MEDIA RELEASE

Lab Integration with PRHC ensures RMH meets highest quality care standards

December 16, 2015 — Ross Memorial Hospital (RMH) and Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC), will now move forward with a new laboratory partnership after the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) Board passed a motion to not stop the Voluntary Integration of Laboratory Services between the two organizations.

RMH has a long-standing history of excellence in the provision of laboratory services. However, new quality guidelines for pathology set by Cancer Care Ontario and the College of Physicians and Surgeons are not achievable in single pathologist laboratories such as the RMH Laboratory, without a significant investment of resources.

RMH and PRHC had submitted a Notice of Voluntary Integration to the Central East LHIN in order to ensure RMH Lab services meet these evolving standards. Through this integration, RMH will now be able to meet the newly released standards and ensure that patient care meets the highest quality standards as it transitions pathology and microbiology services from RMH to PRHC.

RMH has been actively pursuing a lab partnership since 2013. This effort has been part of the hospital's annual goals and objectives for two years, and is included in the RMH 2015-2021 Strategic Plan.

“We’re very proud of the excellent lab services at the Ross Memorial Hospital and of our exceptional team,” said Dr. Bert Lauwers, RMH President and CEO. “It’s important that we continue providing the best patient care by ensuring we are meeting the highest quality standards and planning for sustainability in the future. We’re confident that this partnership with PRHC is in the best interest of our patients. They will not see a change in the care they receive at RMH.”

“The skilled, multidisciplinary laboratory team at PRHC performs 1.5 million lab tests each year, and has been providing select services to some of our partner hospitals in the region for a number of years. With a \$2 million upgrade to modernize and automate our lab in 2015, we have increased our capacity to perform more lab tests, more safely and efficiently. As a regional centre, we look forward to continuing to provide excellent care for patients through this partnership and integration of lab services with RMH,” said Nancy Martin-Ronson, VP, Professional & Diagnostic Services, Chief Nursing Executive, Chief Information Officer, PRHC.

The change in delivery of microbiology and pathology services takes place in March 2016. Dr. Lauwers stated, “We are very thankful to our regional partners, the PRHC, Dr. McLaughlin, President and CEO of PRHC, and his team who really helped to make this happen. Together, we will be delivering a high quality pathology service which meets the new provincial standards into the future. We look forward to our growing relationship.”

“Every LHIN-funded health service provider has an accountability to identify integrations that would lead to the improved quality, access and sustainability of the services it provides to its patients,” said Deborah Hammons, Central East LHIN CEO. “By proposing and now moving forward with this integration, the Boards, physicians, front line staff and administrators at RMH and PRHC are demonstrating their leadership and commitment to transforming the system while continuing to provide care close to home.”

The integration impacts two full time Charge Medical Lab Technologists (MLT), three full time MLTs and two part time MLTs who will have the opportunity to retire, leave voluntarily or be transferred with the work to PRHC. The plan also involves a reduction of one full time clerical position.

PRHC is working with RMH to minimize impact to PRHC staff. Current vacancies at PRHC will help to mitigate staffing changes.

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