



# Central East

## LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK

### NEWS RELEASE

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### CENTRAL EAST LHIN INCREASING ACCESS TO LOCAL CARE

Investments to help ease hospital overcrowding and provide increased access to emergency care

February 16, 2007 - The Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is increasing access to local health services for patients in its community by introducing and enhancing geriatric expertise in five Central East LHIN hospitals and providing more services for patients who no longer need acute care hospital care, it was announced today.

"We want people to receive appropriate care in the hospital, at home or in other community-based settings, so they are more comfortable and are closer to family and loved ones," said Marilyn Emery, CEO of the Central East LHIN. "We're working with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and health care partners from across the LHIN to provide better care, especially for elderly patients in the hospital and in their homes."

Local investments announced today include:

- \$610,800 to increase home care and community support services for ALC patients (patients in the hospital who no longer need hospital services) and increase the Central East Community Care Access Centre's Emergency Department Case Manager capacity in Peterborough
- \$1.35 million to fund an innovative geriatric emergency management partnership between five Central East LHIN hospitals - Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Lakeridge Health, Ross Memorial, Rouge Valley Health System, The Scarborough Hospital.

"During the development of our Integrated Health Service Plan, our community told us about challenges and opportunities for improvement," said Foster Loucks, Chair of the Central East LHIN Board of Directors. "Today's announcement will lead to better care for patients and their families as we move forward in creating a seamless system of care for seniors."

"We believe quality care for patients is best delivered with input from local health care partners," said Minister of Health and Long-Term Care George Smitherman. "These innovative and collaborative partnerships will help local patients get the care they need that's appropriate and provide them with a higher level of comfort."

Funding for the increased home care and community support services has been provided by the McGuinty government from \$13.7 million in one time funding to build community capacity to deliver care for local residents and improve the availability of hospital beds across the province.

"I am very pleased with this new funding that will help to alleviate the pressures in the Peterborough area," said Don Ford, Executive Director of the Central East Community Care Access Centre. "I commend the government for their continued commitment to community healthcare and look forward to working with the Central East LHIN on this important project."

Funding for the geriatric emergency management partnership is part of the province's recently announced \$10-million Emergency Department (ED) Support Fund to which local health care providers applied with initiatives that support emergency departments. Today's announcement is just the latest example of the steps the government has taken to improve access to community care and deal with emergency department pressures in hospitals in the Central East LHIN and is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public health care, building a system that delivers on three priorities - keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

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The Central East LHIN, which recently released its first Integrated Health Service Plan, is one of 14 not-for-profit organizations, created by the provincial government to be responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services - hospitals, long term care facilities, community care access centres, community health centres, community support services and mental health and addictions agencies.

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