



Plan to provide Specialized Services for Seniors moves ahead *Central East LHIN Board approves host agency for new RSGS entity*

NEWS

August 25, 2011

Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) in Cobourg has been selected by the Board of the Central East Local Health Integration Network to be the host agency for the new Central East LHIN Regional Specialized Geriatrics Services (RSGS) entity.

As the host agency, Northumberland Hills Hospital will now begin discussing the formalization of the arrangements with the LHIN that will launch this new entity. This will include the hiring of entity staff, providing office space and supporting the financial functions. The entity will then lead the development and implementation of a new model for providing specialized geriatrics services for residents in Central East communities.

The goal of the Regional Specialized Geriatrics Services (RSGS) model, first presented to the LHIN Board in May, is to ensure that seniors can access a seamless system of care that is organized around their needs and improves their quality of life.

It will build on the significant investments that have already been made in the LHIN for programs such as Geriatric Emergency Management (GEM) Nurses in the emergency departments, Nurse Practitioners caring for patients in local long-term care homes (NPSTAT), the new Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) clinics in the LHIN's large hospitals, Senior Friendly Hospital initiatives and the introduction of "Home First" which, through the leadership of the Central East Community Care Access Centre, has seen over 4,000 clients discharged from hospital to home with enhanced home care supports.

One of the first goals for the RSGS entity will be to work with the LHIN organization, hospitals, community representatives and other health service providers to establish a shared governance model that will organize and co-ordinate the delivery of health services to ensure better health outcomes for frail seniors across the Central East LHIN.

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.

Central East LHIN



QUOTES

“The current system of health services for frail seniors is confusing, frustrating and difficult to navigate for the individual requiring the service as well as the providers of the various services. This is because there is an array of services across the LHIN that generally operate individually, rather than as part of a broader system of care,” said Wayne Gladstone, Chair, Central East LHIN Board of Directors. “Together with our health service providers, the LHIN is committed to building a network of services to meet the needs of our rapidly growing and aging population of seniors,”

“We’re pleased that the LHIN has recognized that Northumberland Hills Hospital has made significant strides in implementing a patient-focused, inter-professional senior-friendly model of care,” said John Hudson, Chair, NHH Board of Directors. “We’re particularly honoured to have been chosen to help establish this important entity initiated by the Central East LHIN.”

QUICK FACTS

- By 2019, the number of seniors aged 65+ will increase by 19% in the Central East region and the number of seniors aged 85 and older will increase by 47% .
- This will include 42,449 frail seniors with significant health care needs – an increase of 36% .
- The impact of these demographic trends will be profound. For example, the current population of seniors in the Central East LHIN aged 75+ is 6.5% , yet they utilize 45% of all acute hospital days and 70% of all Alternate Level of Care (ALC) days.
- The 70% utilization in ALC Days is a 128% increase over the last five years.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the LHIN’s focus on “Creating an Integrated Health Care Experience for Central East Seniors”, please click [here](#).

For more information:

Katie Cronin-Wood, Communications Lead

Central East LHIN

1-866-804-5446 ext. 218 katie.croninwood@lhins.on.ca

Engaged Communities.
Healthy Communities.