



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – April 16, 2007

CHRONIC DISEASE LEADERS FORM STEERING COMMITTEE

Network to focus on building better Chronic Disease Prevention and Management system in Central East

AJAX – With chronic disease on the rise across Ontario, the Central East Local Health Integration Network has established a Chronic Disease Prevention and Management (CDPM) Network, to help create a better system for patients, caregivers and health care professionals in the Central East community.

Chronic disease is different from an acute illness in that chronic diseases are rarely cured completely and may impact a person's life for many years. Examples of chronic disease include heart disease, stroke, chronic kidney disease, respiratory disease, diabetes and arthritis.

A recent report by the Ontario Health Quality Council documents that about one in three Ontarians have one or more chronic diseases. Of those over the age of 65, almost four out of five have one chronic disease, and of those, about 70 percent suffer from two or more.

“The Ontario Health Quality Council recognizes the need for system redesign for chronic disease and that by providing patients with information on how to better care for and live with chronic diseases we can improve the health of Ontarians,” said Marilyn Emery, CEO of the Central East LHIN. “The Central East CDPM Network will ensure that health care providers, health care consumers and community residents work together to better prevent and manage chronic disease in our community.”

At the beginning of the year, over fifty people – including physicians, front line health care professionals and health care consumers - submitted Expression of Interest forms, as the Central East LHIN began to create a Steering Committee for the new Network. The LHIN was looking for individuals who could bring a variety of perspectives on chronic disease prevention and management from across the Central East geography.

“Fourteen talented and dedicated individuals have been chosen to form the CDPM Network Steering Committee,” said Marilyn Emery, CEO of the Central East LHIN. “Co chairs Dr. Don Harterre from Peterborough and Dr. George Buldo from Oshawa and the rest of the team will work with the LHIN helping to identify needs and providing advice on goals and priorities.”

Interested individuals, members of chronic disease organizations and health and social service providers are also invited to become part of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Health Interest Network simply by filling out a membership form posted on the Central East LHIN website. Membership in the Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Network is voluntary and there is no membership fee. Membership volunteers will work with the Steering Committee to share knowledge and develop innovative solutions for chronic disease prevention and management.

For a complete listing of the CDPM Network Steering Committee members, including their biographies, please visit the “Health Interest Networks” section of the Central East website – www.centraleastlhin.on.ca. Membership forms are also available on this section of the site. If people do not have access to the Internet or require assistance, please call 905-427-5497 or 1-866-804-5446.

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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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