



DISTRICT HEALTH COUNCIL

Your Local Voice in Health Planning

Durham Region, Haliburton,
Northumberland,
Peterborough Counties and
City of Kawartha Lakes
(Formerly Victoria County)

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District Health Council DURHAM REGION SERVICE REVIEW

JUNE 2004

This newsletter, the third for the Durham Region Service Review, is a project update on the Durham HKPR District Health Council's current review of acute care-related services in Durham Region.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with colleagues in your community.

STATUS OF PROJECT:

Expert Panels:

The Durham Region Service Review focuses on "Health Clusters" -- distinct care processes that reflect resource use and/or frequency of hospital admission. An Expert Panel will be formed for each Health Cluster to review the analysis, identify issues, and develop recommended solutions.

The Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Adult Orthopaedics Expert Panels were initiated in April 2004. These three Expert Panels have now:

- Developed an integrated profile describing service inter-relationships along the continuum of care,
- Reviewed data analysis and provided input to identify and apply relevant benchmarks;
- Identified themes and issues arising from the analysis;
- Provided feedback on the design of the consultation and recommended stakeholders to include in the consultations.

The themes and issues identified by these three Expert Panels are summarized on the following page.

Status Of Data Analysis:

Inpatient, same day surgery, and emergency services data has been received and analyzed.

Home care data and hospital-specific ambulatory care data has been received and is now being analyzed.

EXPERT PANEL CONSULTATIONS:

The Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Adult Orthopaedics Expert Panels held consultation sessions in June 2004 to seek input and feedback on their work to date.

The consultations:

- Confirmed the draft integrated profile developed by the Expert Panel;
- Confirmed the issues and themes discussed by each Expert Panel;
- Provided input on additional data analysis to consider; and
- Provided input on specific questions related to the key themes for each Expert Panel.

NEXT STEPS:

Next steps include:

- Incorporating results of the analysis of the hospital-specific ambulatory care data;
- Developing summary reports for the Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Adult Orthopaedics Expert Panels;
- Initiating the three remaining Expert Panels (Adult Cardiology, Adult Oncology, and Adult Respiriology) in Fall 2004; and
- Planning for a consultation process, to provide feedback on recommendations of all the Expert Panels, once the six Expert Panels have completed their work.

**Contact the District Health Council
to request a copy of the Report for
Consultation for the Paediatrics,
Obstetrics or Adult Orthopaedics
Expert Panel.**

PAEDIATRICS EXPERT PANEL

The Paediatrics Expert Panel identified the following issues for Durham Region residents:

- **Utilization of Emergency Services**
Almost 30% of all emergency visits for Durham Region residents are paediatric patients.
- **Primary Care Services**
Decreased access to a Family Physician; increased use of alternate resources in the system; concerns regarding continuity of care; resources for Nurse Practitioners; and communication challenges were identified.
- **Medical and Health Human Resources**
Ability to refer to Paediatricians and other specialists; shortages of other health care professionals; availability of local paediatric outpatient rehabilitation services; and wait times for appointments are part of this issue.
- **Evidence-based Best Practices**
Access to information and use of evidence-based best practices, as well as potential future practice changes were identified.
- **Availability of Services within Durham Region**
Many paediatric residents receive services outside of Durham Region. Impacts along the integrated profile, and possible implications of any decision to change the siting of services, were considered.
- **Interface between Home and Hospital**
Predicted trends in service delivery include: increasing numbers of children with complex care needs; and continued shift to decreasing inpatient hospitalizations and length of stay for children requiring hospital care.

OBSTETRICS EXPERT PANEL

The Obstetrics Expert Panel identified the following issues for Durham Region residents:

- **Current and Projected Changes in Practice**
A change in practice leading to increased voluntary C-Sections is currently being experienced, and is predicted to continue in the future. Impacts along the integrated profile were identified.
- **Access to Primary Care Services**
Impacts of reduced access that are related to shortages of family physicians include: increased use of walk-in clinics; delayed or no access to pre-natal care; and increased use of obstetricians.
- **Medical and Health Human Resources**
Impacts on obstetricians, family physicians, midwives, paediatricians, nurses, and other multi-disciplinary team members were considered.
- **Pre-Conception and Ante-Natal Care**
The impacts from lack of pre-conception and ante-natal care on needs along the integrated profile, and the importance of public education and health promotion, were highlighted.
- **Availability and Siting of Services**
Many residents receive services, outside of Durham Region. Impacts along the integrated profile as residents access care outside the region include: increased retro-transfers; increased needs to transport high needs patients; and increased communication challenges.

ADULT ORTHOPAEDIC EXPERT PANEL

The Adult Orthopaedic Expert Panel identified the following issues for Durham Region residents:

- **Future Volumes**
Aging of the population and changing practices have implications for managing and planning for projected future volumes.
- **Primary Care Services**
Access to family physicians and their knowledge to conservatively manage patients were identified.
- **Medical and Health Human Resources**
Shortages of family physician and orthopaedic surgeons have impacts on: increased wait times; decreased quality of care; and potential deterioration in the condition of patients.
- **Best Practices**
There is limited knowledge about what best practices are related to length of inpatient acute stay, and duration and intensity of rehabilitation.
- **Location of Care**
Significant volumes of joint replacements are delivered outside of Durham Region. Concerns include: access to care; resource requirements within the region for repatriated patients and follow-up care; and continuity of care.
- **Patients with Fractured Hip**
Although focused on patients with joint replacements, the Expert Panel also considered care for patients with fractured hips, including: higher complexity and resource intensity; longer length of stay; and increased proportion of ALC days.