

Critical Care Strategy

Improving Access, Quality and System Integration

Monthly Report – June 2006

Strategy Highlights:

Provincial Inventory of Adult Critical Care Services Underway

The newly appointed Critical Care LHIN Leaders are working closely with Ontario hospitals over the summer to conduct a comprehensive inventory of adult critical care units. This inventory will provide Ministry, LHIN and hospital-level decision makers with an agreed upon baseline as to the number, size and type of critical care units in operation in Ontario acute care hospitals. As noted in their June 7 letter to hospital CEOs, Assistant Deputy Ministers, Hugh MacLeod and Mary Kardos Burton, explain the inventory as “...an essential first step as we prepare to meet future demands for critical care. Establishing this baseline will give us a point of reference with which to evaluate changes in service delivery plans as well as enabling us to determine where we need to invest in service expansion”. Draft inventory data is due from hospitals to the appropriate Critical Care LHIN Leader by July 31 with the final data, approved by the hospital CEO, due to the Critical Care Secretariat by August 15. The data, along with analysis from the Critical Care LHIN Leaders will form the basis for a report on the status of Ontario critical care services that will be distributed in October.

Ontario Trauma Expert Panel Established

Dr. Bernard Lawless Provincial Lead, Critical Care and Trauma, is working with key stakeholders to conduct a review of trauma services in Ontario. As a first step in this process, Dr. Lawless has established the Ontario Trauma Expert Panel with senior trauma surgeon, Dr. Murray Girotti, as chair. The Trauma Expert Panel, which had a first meeting on June 13, will analyze the challenges facing trauma services and develop recommendations for the Ministry’s review. The panel has set up several working groups to tackle various issues. A completed report from the Trauma Expert Panel is due to Dr. Lawless by September 30.

Call for Applications: Critical Care Nursing E-Learning Program

On June 8, the Critical Care Secretariat and Nursing Secretariat issued a Call for Applications for educational institutions interested in becoming a Hub of Excellence for critical care nursing education in Ontario. The successful applicant will receive funding through the Critical Care Strategy to develop and manage a Critical Care Nursing E-Learning Program. This program will include both interactive, web-based teaching modules and hands-on training sessions delivered at local community colleges and hospitals. The e-learning program will complement existing critical care education programs by providing another pathway for nurses interested in training in critical care. Applications are due by July 21.

Other Progress:

Meeting of the Ontario Critical Care Expert Panel – June 6 The Panel received two significant stakeholder reports at the June 6 meeting. Jocelyn Bennett presented the Critical Care Nursing Standards Report and Dr. Greg Downey presented the Chronic Ventilation Task Group Report. Both reports were enthusiastically received by the Panel members and referred to the Ministry for a formal response. It is anticipated that both reports will be released to the public following a review by MOHLTC senior management.

Hospitals and Performance Coaching Teams Prepare for Site Visits Beginning in July During the application process held in May, an impressive range of Ontario hospitals applied to participate in the Critical Care Performance Improvement Coaching Team program. In June, 40 hospitals received communication of their acceptance. Initial site visits for most hospitals are scheduled over July and August. The Critical Care Secretariat continues to receive very positive feedback from clinical and administrative leaders regarding this program. Both the Coaching Team members and the hospitals leads are clearly excited to be getting this collaborative work underway.

Clinical Best Practices Demonstration Project Meeting The ICU Clinical Best Practices Demonstration Project celebrated a milestone in hosting its second province-wide project meeting on June 22 and 23 in Toronto. Almost all of the 16 participating units were represented. Attendees participated in project updates and teambuilding exercises and were treated to two phenomenal keynote speakers. Dr. Deborah Cook spoke on “Changing Behaviour in Health Care” and Dr. Hilary Meggison provided an “Update on Insulin Therapy in Intensive Care”. The Demonstration Project will continue through June 2007 but is already informing MOHLTC plans for province-wide initiatives to support quality improvement in critical care.

International Medical Emergency Team Conference Over 30 delegates from Ontario hospitals that have received funding to establish Critical Care Response Teams (CCRTs) attended the 2nd International Medical Emergency Team Conference in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania from June 27 to 29. Hugh MacLeod, ADM, Health System Accountability and Performance Division, delivered a strong presentation linking Ontario’s commitment to CCRTs to the broader change agenda underway in the province.

Critical Care Information System Under the leadership of Matt Anderson, IM Lead, Critical Care Strategy, the Critical Care Information System (CCIS) development activities began this month with the selected vendor. A Term Sheet was signed and a final agreement with the vendor is expected in July. Additional stakeholder groups were consulted in June including Critical Care Network Administrators and LHIN CEOs. These groups reviewed the mock reports (outputs of the CCIS) to provide feedback into their format and content. In addition, an assessment has begun to identify the seven lead MSICU sites where the CCIS will be implemented in January 2007. There are several factors being considered to identify these sites. The lead sites will be comprised of a mixture of community and academic hospital from across the Province. In addition, some of the sites will have Critical Care Response Teams and some will be collecting data for the Critical Care Research Network (CCR Net). The selected sites will also need to be integrated with the Provincial EMPI prior to January 2007. The lead sites will be selected by the end of July so preparation activities can begin.

Key Targets for July 2006

- Coaching Team site visits begin the week of July 3 and continue through September
- Critical Care Nursing E-Learning Call for Applications closes July 21
- Hospitals to have draft inventory data to the appropriate Critical Care LHIN Leader by July 31

Provincial Tables

- ❖ July 7 2nd Meeting of the Ontario Trauma Expert Panel

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