

Strategy Highlights:

Prepared by the Critical Care Secretariat

New critical care nurse training program off to a great start

In September 2007, the Critical Care Nursing Graduate Certificate Program was launched with 80 nurses enrolled in the program from across the province.

Preliminary demographic information regarding this first cohort indicates that the majority of the nurses are fairly recent graduates, with four to five years of nursing experience (post graduation). Most are working in medical/surgical services or have recently accepted a position in an intensive care unit.

Geographically, 27 per cent of the nurses reside in northern Ontario, 43 per cent of the nurses reside in eastern Ontario, 20 per cent reside in the Toronto area, and ten per cent reside in western Ontario. Ninety-one per cent of the nurses enrolled in the first cohort are female and nine per cent are male. The second cohort of nurses will enter the program in January 2008.

Seven colleges and two universities from across Ontario have partnered with Durham College to offer the courses in Simulation and Integrated Practicum. The post-secondary institutions partnering with Durham College include: Sault College, Northern College, Cambrian College, Confederation College, Seneca College, Georgian College, Centennial College, Queen's University and the University of Windsor.

In October, 21 critical care nurses, critical care nurse educators and college/university professors from the partnering colleges and universities participated in a 'train-the-trainer' workshop in Durham College's high tech simulation lab. Over the course of two and one half days, the participants learned how to maximize the use of their own simulation lab in preparation for the first offering of the critical care nursing simulation course within their region in early 2008.

For further details on the Durham College Critical Care Nursing Graduate Certificate visit www.durhamcollege.ca/criticalcare.

Call For Applications: Critical Care Nurse Training Fund

In 2006 the ministry invested a total of \$4.5 million in hospitals across the province to aid in the training of nurses who may be new to the practice of critical care. Based on the substantial number of applications from hospitals last year and the successful reporting results submitted to the ministry, the Ontario Critical Care Strategy will be issuing a call for applications for the next iteration of the Critical Care Nurse Training Fund in December 2007.

Funding eligibility applies to hospitals running adult and/or paediatric critical care units, classified as level 2 or level 3, where critical care training will be acquired between April 1st, 2008 and March 31st, 2009 through an in-house and/or college-based adult and/or paediatric critical care program. Hospitals may be eligible for full or partial funding for critical care training. This will depend upon the quality of the application and the number of applications received. Over time, the funding criteria will be progressively revised to encourage hospitals to use these funds to educate nurses in accordance with the new provincial critical care nursing standards. This gradual refinement of the funding criteria will provide hospitals and educational institutions with adequate time to move into compliance with the standards. Hospitals will be notified via email when the application package is available for download on the strategy website at www.health.gov.on.ca/criticalcare

ACES and Critical Care Response Team course schedule

The Canadian Resuscitation Institute (CRI) is growing rapidly. Through its Critical Care Education Network, CRI provides Critical Care Response Team (CCRT) and Acute Cardiac Simulation (ACES) courses which are funded by the MOHLTC as part of the Critical Care Strategy.

This year, CRI's Critical Care Education Network will train 301 nurses and respiratory therapists to work as part of the CCRTs throughout Ontario.

The ACES course will train 200 physicians in community and/or rural hospitals in Ontario. The focus of this course is to provide training in the initial clinical assessment and lifesaving response required to stabilize and begin treating the critically ill patient. The schedule for ACES and CCRT courses is as follows:

Scheduled CCRT Courses	Scheduled ACES Courses
Jan 9 th – 10 th (Paediatric CCRT); Hamilton	Jan 19 th -20 th ; Toronto
Jan 18 th – 20 th ; Sudbury	Jan 31 st - Feb 1 st ; Ottawa
Jan 24 th – 25 th ; Ottawa	Feb 4 th – 5 th ; Ottawa
Feb 1 st – 3 rd ; Sudbury	Feb 9 th – 10 th ; Toronto
Feb 29 th - March 2 nd ; Sudbury	Feb 18 th – 19 th ; Ottawa
	March 1 st – 2 nd ; Toronto

Additional CCRT courses will be scheduled to take place in Hamilton. In addition, CRI is planning to schedule ACES Courses in Sudbury, Windsor and Thunder Bay during the next few months.

If you are interested in attending any of these courses, or in becoming an instructor or Sim Engineer, please contact the CRI course coordinators at coursecoordinator@CRIedunet.org.

Paediatric critical care expansion having a positive impact

The Paediatric Critical Care Response Teams (PCCRT) demonstration project has been implemented at four academic health science centres (AHSC) as evidenced by a high service uptake at all sites, ranging from 34 to 58 consult calls per 1,000 inpatient admissions. The clinicians at all sites believe that they are having a positive clinical impact and ward staff universally endorse the service.

Recently, the PCCRT project increased its scope to include an **extramural PCCRT service** to reflect the role of paediatric AHSCs with level three intensive care units as a resource for critically ill children across Ontario. The extramural PCCRT program has been developed in close collaboration with CitiCall, Ontario's existing online critical care resource and bed registry.

Since Oct 1st, 2007, emergency physicians and paediatricians caring for critically ill children in Ontario have had telephone access to a paediatric intensivist 24 hours a day, seven days a week. By calling CitiCall's central number, physicians are able to consult with a paediatric intensivist regarding patient management or potential transfer. Should the paediatric intensivist at the AHSC not be able to accept a child for transfer when transfer is required, he/she will remain engaged in the role of consultant to the calling physician until CitiCall has located an AHSC that is able to receive the child and the paediatric intensivist at that centre has been given a report. An extensive communications plan has been developed and is underway to support the implementation of this new service. According to **Dr. Des Bohn**, Chief, Department of Critical Care Medicine, The Hospital for Sick Children, Professor of Anaesthesia and Paediatrics, University of Toronto, Provincial Lead Physician, Paediatric Critical Care Response Team:

"The expansion of Ontario's CitiCall service to provide clinicians with 24/7 access to a paediatric intensivist, together with the implementation of Paediatric Critical Care Response Teams, marks a major milestone in improving the delivery of critical care services to children and their parents across the province."

For More Information

Please visit us on the web:
www.health.gov.on.ca/criticalcare or contact:

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