

North Simcoe Muskoka

Local Health Integration Network

July 2006

Imagine a Better Health Care System...

...and then help make it real!

The Journey to the Integrated Health Service Plan Continues!

June 19th marked the end of Phase One and the beginning of Phase Two of the Journey to the Integrated Health Service Plan.

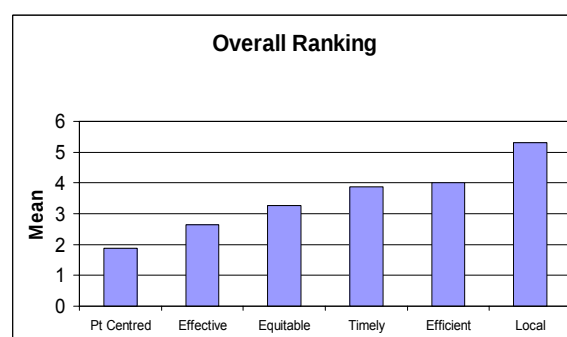
Phase One resulted in the identification of thousands of issues through the Current State Assessment. Those issues have been synthesized into approximately 300 distinct issues that will move forward through the NSM LHIN priority-setting process.

Phase Two kicked off the week of June 19th to 23rd with a series of nine priority-setting criteria ranking workshops held across the NSM LHIN geographic area.

Thank you to the approximately 80 individuals, including members of the public, representatives of the Francophone community, front line health care providers and health care leaders, who participated.

Your participation will help ensure that the NSM LHIN Board's decisions regarding the "priorities for integration" for the first IHSP will be informed by the values and preferences of the residents of North Simcoe and Muskoka.

Here is what you said:



more important —————> less important

CALL TO ACTION SYMPOSIUM

Don't miss your opportunity to be involved in developing the **ACTION PLANS** to guide the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN's "priorities for integration" for the Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP) on **Tuesday, September 12th, 2006** at the Fern Resort, Orillia. Further details to follow. Please register your interest in attending by calling or emailing Ilona Guerra at ext. 201 or Ilona.Guerra@lhins.on.ca.

Please share this newsletter with your staff, colleagues, patients, consumers, family and friends. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us via email at northsimcoemuskoka@lhins.on.ca or by phone.

Update on Ontario's Wait Time Strategy

Reducing wait times in key health services is one of the Ontario government's top priorities and an important part of its strategy to transform the province's health care system. Ontario's Wait Time strategy targets five major health services: cancer surgery, cataract surgery, hip and knee total joint replacement surgery, certain cardiac procedures (angiography, angioplasty and bypass surgery), and MRI and CT scans. All of these services are currently provided in the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (NSM LHIN) except for the specific cardiac procedures. Between the time comprehensive wait time data was first collected in September 2005, and March 2006, the NSM LHIN has seen significant decreases in nearly all its median wait times.

To further the provincial Wait Time Strategy, the NSM LHIN and the Wait Time Strategy Office, MOHLTC co-facilitated a Wait Time Strategy workshop on June 16, 2006. The workshop was attended by representatives from the NSM LHIN hospitals, Community Care Access Centres, Rehabilitation Personnel and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The objectives of the workshop were to further the understanding of the provincial Wait Time Strategy, examine related wait times in the NSM LHIN, and generate ideas for reducing wait times for hip and knee surgery and cataract surgery in the NSM LHIN.

In addition to successfully meeting the specific objectives of the workshop, the day was effective in building upon the existing spirit of collaboration and innovation that exists throughout the NSM LHIN. Next steps include developing an action plan to reduce wait times for hip and knee total joint replacement surgery and cataract surgery based on the ideas generated at the workshop and organizing further workshops focusing on cancer surgery, and MRI and CT wait times.

Dr. Guilio DiDiodato Named North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN Critical Care Leader

On January 30, 2006 the Ontario government announced a \$90-million critical care strategy aimed at improving access, quality and system integration in the delivery of critical care services in the province to ensure that people who are critically ill receive the right care as soon as possible after being sent to hospital. The strategy includes critical care response teams, intensive care unit beds, health human resources and other system initiatives such as coaching teams and the identification of critical care leaders for each LHIN. An inventory is currently being conducted at every hospital in Ontario that provides critical care services to provide a baseline of the existing critical care services which is required as we begin to plan for the future.



Dr. Guilio DiDiodato has been named the critical care leader for the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN. He is the clinical director of the critical care unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie and provides intensivist services in various intensive care units across the province. He also provides consultative services in infectious diseases and internal medicine.

As the critical care leader for the NSM LHIN, Dr. DiDiodato will support the local implementation of the province's critical care strategy. He will also work with the other LHIN critical care leaders to provide advice to the provincial government on critical care issues.

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