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Funding announced to support changes to stroke care

Evidence shows stroke survivors and people at high risk of stroke achieve the best outcomes if they are treated by practitioners with recognized stroke expertise and experience. Our goal for all residents of the South West LHIN who experience a stroke is that they are admitted to a designated stroke centre, so they can receive specialized care that meets best practice guidelines.

On February 5, 2016, the Ministry announced \$1.72 million to assist in our efforts to improve stroke care in the South West LHIN. We will be working with hospital partners to allocate the new resources. Small hospitals will not have their funding impacted by these changes.

The funding announcement comes after partners in the South West LHIN took an extensive look at hospital stroke care services to make sure that they provided the highest quality care. As a result, stroke care currently provided at 28 hospital sites across the LHIN, will in the future be provided at 7 hospital sites.



- **Acute Stroke Care will be provided by:** London Health Sciences Centre (University Hospital); Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (Stratford General Hospital); Grey Bruce Health Services (Owen Sound Hospital); St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital; Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (Telestroke Hospital providing access to tPA only)

- **Inpatient Rehabilitation Stroke Care will be provided by:** St. Joseph's Health Care, London – Parkwood Institute; Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (Stratford General Hospital); Grey Bruce Health Services (Owen Sound Hospital); St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital; Woodstock Hospital

These changes ensure that all residents in our LHIN will receive best practice stroke care and achieve the best possible outcomes after a stroke.

Working together from Lake Erie to the Bruce Peninsula

The South West LHIN is pleased to release its plan for the local health system for the next three years.

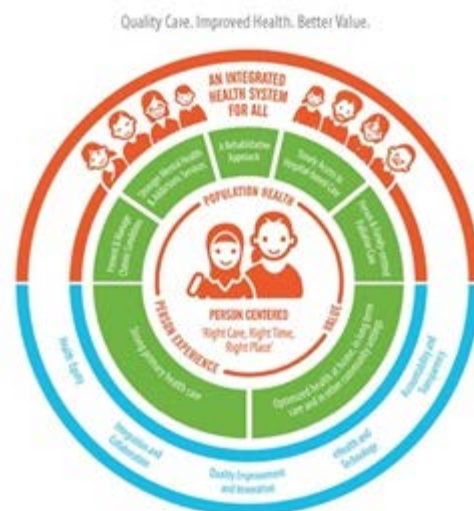
After listening to those people who use the health system as both patients and caregivers, health service providers, local networks, municipal leaders and other members of the public, we designed a plan that is intended to reflect the needs and future directions of the health system.

We continue to enhance the health system to better meet the needs of patients, clients and residents across our geography. And through a shared commitment, we aim to have quality care, improved health, and better value in all of our communities.

Please join us in developing a healthier tomorrow.

Quality care, improved health, better value

- Highlights: South West LHIN Integrated Health Service Plan 2016-19
- Full plan: South West LHIN Integrated Health Service Plan 2016-19



Patients First

To gain feedback on the proposed changes in the discussion paper *Patients First: A Proposal to Strengthen Patient-Centred Health Care in Ontario*, the LHIN travelled to each proposed sub-region to hear from residents – including sessions in London Middlesex (London), Elgin (St. Thomas), Huron Perth (Stratford), Oxford (Woodstock) and Grey Bruce (Owen

Sound). All feedback gathered both online and in person was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on February 29, 2016.

Of those in attendance, 86 per cent learned something new, 93 per cent felt they had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss important issues, and 93 per cent felt their time was well spent. All sectors were represented with broad attendance from the public, health service providers, governance, volunteers, elected officials and media. For those who couldn't attend the sessions in person, an online form was available and the public were invited to provide their feedback online.

[A summary of the themes discussed and a copy of the presentation are now available.](#)



Registration is now open for the South West LHIN Quality Symposium

[Register now for the 2016 South West LHIN Quality Symposium](#) at the Stratford Rotary Complex. We look forward to seeing you June 2, 2016 in Stratford, Ontario.

We are pleased to announce a great lineup of speakers for the 2016 Quality Symposium including Judith John, Andrew Coyne, George Smitherman and Dr. Joshua Tepper. The Quality Symposium brings together more than 400 health service providers, governors and partners for a day of education and inspiration around quality improvement best practices. This event is accessible and free of charge. The South West LHIN Quality Awards will also be handed out to recognize two initiatives that improve the experience of care, improve health outcomes and lives of patients, clients and residents in our LHIN, while achieving better value for the health system.



Support grows for Indigenous Cultural Safety training

South Bruce Grey Health Centre (SBGHC) is embracing Indigenous cultural safety by making the award-winning



Indigenous Cultural Safety (ICS) training operating in the South West LHIN available to all its staff and management.

“We have enthusiastically embraced this training,” says President and CEO Paul Rosebush. “It has become critical as our communities and staff become more diverse. It is important that health care organizations do everything possible to educate its staff on the challenges and discrimination that people may face when accessing care.”

“Our organization strongly supports this initiative,” says Rosebush. “Unfortunately, stereotypes can influence behaviour. It is essential training for our staff that will assist SBGHC to be responsive to the needs of patients of all cultures who come to us for care.”

The online training course teaches participants about terminology, diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity, aspects of colonial history, such as Indian residential schools and Indian Hospitals, a timeline of historical events, and contexts for understanding social disparities and inequities. This program addresses institutionalized racism within health care organizations. It is a process of re-education designed to break stereotypes, unconscious bias, and support a better patient experience for Indigenous peoples accessing services.

Last month, Premier Kathleen Wynne announced that all Ontario Public Service employees will now receive ICS training. Similar to the training program that has been operating in the South West LHIN, the new provincial initiative will explore how to enhance services to Indigenous people through participation in interactive activities about culture, stereotyping, and the consequences and legacies of colonization.

[More information on the program - including how to register](#)

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