
North East LHIN E-Bulletin, Issue 3, March 23th, 2007

*****ALTERNATE LEVEL OF CARE (ALC) A PRIORITY*****

The health system across North East Ontario is facing significant challenges due to the high levels of ALC patients in hospital. The situation has reached a critical point in the four larger communities in the region (Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, North Bay and Timmins) such that focused attention is required immediately to identify and implement short, mid and long-term solutions.

Through a collaborative approach, the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) has supported the creation of four community-specific ALC Task Forces that will:

- Develop a detailed profile of patients currently in ALC
- Document ALC trends and possible causes for changes in the level
- Establish specific ALC targets by community
- Make recommendations to all stakeholders on ways and means to achieve hospital ALC targets by addressing client/patient processes upstream to the hospital (from the community), within the hospital and downstream from the hospital (to the community)
- Provide advice on the allocation or reallocation of resources as appropriate to achieve the local strategies

The composition of the Task Forces reflects the key sectors affected by, or having the potential to affect, the ALC problem. The sectors are:

- Hospital
- Community Care Access Centre
- Long-Term Care Homes
- Community Support Services
- Primary Care
- Community Mental Health/Addiction
- Emergency Health Services
- Municipal Government
- NE LHIN
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Each of these sectors was asked to select one representative for participation on the Task Force. In this first phase, the Task Forces have targeted sector representation from the urban areas only. All representatives are expected to seek input from, and relay information, to their respective sectors.

The ALC Task Forces held their first face-to-face meetings:

- Sault Ste. Marie on March 19th
- Timmins, North Bay and Sudbury on March 20th, 2007.

*****DISCUSSIONS RESULTED IN COMMITMENT ACROSS REGION*****

In each of the four northern community centres, a common theme emerged from the meetings. The ALC ask Forces in Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and North Bay are equally:

- Committed to working toward finding solutions and bringing forward recommendations that address the ALC issue in their community and the district
- Determined to build and improve on existing reports and recommendations.

Additional information on the four ALC Task Forces will be posted on the NE LHIN website at www.nelhin.on.ca

***** MARK YOUR CALENDARS - ALTERNATE LEVEL CARE (ALC) SUMMIT*****
Developing Effective Response Strategies

The ALC Summit is the first of a series of three regional summits planned as part of the NE LHIN Integrated Health Service Plan. The objective of the summit is to develop a framework to address ALC issues and to enhance knowledge transfer to the broader health system in the North East. Information derived from the four ALC Task Forces will serve as a guide to the work and outcomes of the summit.

When: June 6 - 7, 2007

Where: Sudbury Radisson

Keynote Speakers: June 6, 2007

Paul Williams, PhD.
Professor Health Policy, Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto
"Role of Community Based Care"

Dinner with humorist Neil Aitchison

June 7, 2007

Michael Decter & Francesca Grosso
Leading Health Care Authorities
"Navigating The Health Care System"

Detailed Information Coming Soon

*****IN BRIEF*****

- The NE LHIN website at www.nelhin.on.ca also provides extensive access to information.
- And don't forget to stay abreast of province-wide LHIN developments through the MOHLTC LHIN bulletins, available at www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/lhin/lhin_mn.html
- E-bulletin recipients are encouraged to **distribute these updates** within their organizations. Anyone seeking to be added to this emailing list can make their request at northeast@lhins.on.ca
- NE LHIN also encourages questions and feedback through northeast@lhins.on.ca