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North East LHIN



e-Bulletin

Week of June 20, Volume 2, Number 14

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Attention Hospital CEOs and Chiefs of Anesthesia

In 2007, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) announced an extensive province-wide Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) Demonstration Project. The first of two phases was launched in April 2007. Fifteen projects were funded at a cost of \$10 million over two years.

Based on the success of the first phase, the MOHLTC is ready to launch the second phase.

The MOHLTC is inviting interested Ontario hospitals to submit an Expression of Interest to be funded for an ACT demonstration site. The deadline for receipt of submissions is Monday, July 14, 2008.

Related documents:

- [Memo](#)
- [Expression of Interest Form](#)

- [Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire](#)

Health Service Provider Profile



The NE LHIN would like to thank the many health service providers that have taken the time to complete the recent health service profile survey. The profiles will provide a high level inventory of services provided in each of the NE LHIN planning areas and will be a useful planning tool for the Health System CEO Round Tables as well as all providers undertaking local planning (i.e. they will be made widely available).

In order to get a complete picture of the services and resources available within the system, the NE LHIN is aiming for a 100% response rate. If you have not already done so, please take a moment before the middle of June to complete the survey as the information collection phase of the project is coming to a close.

For more information, please contact marc.lefebvre@lhins.on.ca

NE LHIN Board of Directors Open Meeting

– June 26

The monthly open meeting of the NE LHIN Board of Directors will be held:

Thursday, June 26, 2008

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Waterfront Inn

2 Cedar Avenue, 2nd Floor

New Liskeard, ON

Toll-free Teleconference Number: 1-866-299-8690. For further information and a complete package, please visit www.nelhin.on.ca.

NE LHIN Increases Access to Long-Term Care Beds in Timmins

The NE LHIN has awarded 64 new long-term care beds in Timmins to increase access to quality long-term care health services. The construction of the new beds is expected to be completed by 2011. The \$2 million/year investment for the 64 new beds will be funded through the NE LHIN's Aging at Home Strategy.

[Read more](#)

Long Time Sudbury Leaders Appointed to the NE LHIN Board of Directions

Long-time Sudbury residents, Gisèle Guenard and Brenda Roseborough have each been appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to the NE LHIN Board of Directors.

[Read more](#)

Sault Ste. Marie Leader Continues to Play Key Role in NE LHIN

Long-time Sault Ste. Marie resident, Peter Vaudry has been granted a three year extension to continue to serve on the NE LHIN Board of Directors. Mr. Vaudry has been an active member of the Board since May 2006, including Chair of the NE LHIN Audit Committee and most recently as interim Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

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Health Human Resources Strategy Division
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1R3

Telephone: (416) 212-7685 Téléphone
Facsimile: (416) 314-3751 Télécopieur

Ministère de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée
Division de la stratégie des ressources humaines dans le
domaine de la santé
10^e étage, édifice Hepburn
80, rue Grosvenor
Toronto, ON M7A 1R3

May 30, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: All Hospital CEOs and Chiefs of Anesthesia

FROM: Dr. Joshua Tepper
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Human Resources Strategy Division

SUBJECT: Anesthesia Care Team Demonstration Project – Phase 2

In 2007, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) announced an extensive province-wide Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) Demonstration Project. The first of two phases was launched in April 2007. Fifteen projects were funded at a cost of \$10 million over two years.

Based on the success of the first phase, the MOHLTC is ready to launch the second phase.

The MOHLTC is inviting interested Ontario hospitals to submit an Expression of Interest to be funded for an ACT demonstration site.

The deadline for receipt of submissions is Monday July 14, 2008.

Each submission must include a completed Expression of Interest form and a completed Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire.

We encourage all hospitals to complete the Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire, whether or not submitting a proposal for funding consideration. The questionnaires will provide an important point-in-time reference for the Project in looking at the state of anesthesia resources across the province.

ACT Model

The ACT is an innovative model of care that is designed to improve access to operative anesthesia services. The model involves specially trained health professionals, registered nurses, respiratory therapists and nurse practitioners - anesthesia, assisting in the provision of anesthesia services under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist.

Specially trained health professionals work under medical directives that have been formally approved by a Medical Advisory Committee. Their scope of practice conforms to Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society guidelines on the role of anesthesia assistants.

Ontario ACT Demonstration Project

The ACT pilot project was a key recommendation in a 2006 report entitled *Transforming the Delivery of Operative Anesthesia Services in Ontario*. The report was produced by a joint MOHLTC-Ontario Medical Association committee, chaired by Dr. Jack Kitts, formed to look at operative anesthesia issues in Ontario.

While ACTs have existed informally at some Ontario's hospitals for several years, the ability and willingness to introduce and/or expand the concept has been limited by a number of factors: specially-designed training programs for registered nurses and respiratory therapists, remuneration models for hospitals and physicians, scope of practice, etc. This pilot project provides the opportunity to test and evaluate the ACT model across a wide variety of settings. It has been a stimulus to the development of specialized training programs. The Michener Institute established the Anesthesia Assistant – Advanced Graduate Certification Program in January 2006 and the University of Toronto will launch the Nurse Practitioner – Anesthesia program in September 2008. In addition, Fanshawe College in London, Ontario offers an Anesthesia Assistant Ontario College Graduate Certificate program. The ACT project has provided an opportunity to share learnings concerning issues such as medical directives, roles and responsibilities, etc.

This initiative provides funding to support the employment and training of anesthesia assistants and nurse practitioners - anesthesia. Anesthesiologists continue to bill the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for services provided except when supervising anesthesia assistants in cataract rooms. In this instance, the hospital receives case cost funding which provides the anesthesiologist with a volume based stipend and funds the anesthesia assistant positions.

First Phase of ACT Demonstration Project

Dr. Keith Rose, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Executive at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, is leading the ACT pilot project. Supporting the initiative as well is the ACT Implementation Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Stephen Brown, Chair, OMA Section on Anesthesia and Chief of Anesthesia, North York General Hospital and Janet Beed, President and Chief Executive Officer, Markham Stouffville Hospital.

The ministry funded 15 Phase 1 ACT Demonstration Projects at 9 hospitals:

- *Acute Pain Service* - Halton Healthcare
- *AAs in Block Room (joint procedures)*
 - London Health Sciences Centre
 - Sunnybrook (Holland campus)
 - The Ottawa Hospital
 - University Health Network
- *AAs in Cataract Suite*
 - St. Joseph's Healthcare - London
 - Toronto East General Hospital
- *AAs in Operating Room*
 - Kingston General Hospital
 - Sault Area Hospital
 - University Health Network
- *AA Float Position* – Royal Victoria Hospital
- *Anesthesia Information Management System* - University Health Network
- *Outside-of-OR sedation* – St. Joseph's Healthcare, London
- *RN Float Position (pre & post operative)* – Sault Area Hospital
- *Tele-health assessment for eye surgery patients* - The Ottawa Hospital

In addition, several self-selected cataract demonstration sites are now operational:

- North York General Hospital
- St. Joseph's Health Care, Hamilton
- Southlake Regional Health Centre
- The Ottawa Hospital

Evaluation of the ACT Initiative

The ACT pilots and the cataract demonstration sites are being evaluated based on three key criteria:

- Clinical efficiencies and quality of care
- Patient safety
- Patient and staff satisfaction

The evaluation of Phase 1 Demonstration sites began in fall 2007 and early learnings are showing the benefits of team based care in knowledge sharing and communication as well as increasing throughput and efficiency in all settings. .

Each Phase 2 demonstration site must also agree to participate in the evaluation process throughout the 2-year life cycle of the project based on the above criteria.

The evaluation process will consist of collecting prospective and retrospective data from each participating site, and, where appropriate, comparing the outcomes of patients treated by an ACT to a similar patient treated without an ACT. The data will be abstracted from patients' medical records and hospital administrative data.

Supporting the Ontario Wait Time Strategy and HealthForceOntario goals

The ACT Demonstration Project is linked to Ontario's Wait Time Strategy and pilot sites are evaluated, in part, on their potential ability to mitigate wait time pressures. As well, the ACT model supports HealthForceOntario's goal to facilitate inter-professional care and to ensure the right number and mix of healthcare providers across the system.

While proposals will be accepted for all ***intra-operative*** programs and services, the ACT Implementation Advisory Committee has determined that priority will be given to five key areas:

- Pediatrics
- Labour and delivery
- After hours coverage
- Out of operating room diagnostics/procedures
- System pressures (e.g. waitlist cases, ER wait times, etc.)

Process, Criteria and Timelines for Phase 2 ACT Demonstration Projects

Hospitals must submit an Expression of Interest form for each initiative. For example, a hospital that would like to establish an ACT to provide after hours coverage, use anesthesia assistants to assist with diagnostic procedures and develop an ACT for cardiac surgery must submit three separate proposals. Each submission should include a completed Expression of Interest form and a completed Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire. Funding will be provided to support two-year ACT demonstration projects and hospitals are eligible to receive funding for more than one initiative.

Each proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. *Merits of Proposal*
 - Rationale
 - Clarity of plan
 - Expected outcomes
 - Innovation
 - Diversity/uniqueness of proposal
 - Relevance to and transferability of program to other hospitals
 - Plan for long-term sustainability
2. *Anesthesiologist Shortfall*
3. *Readiness to Establish an ACT*
 - Staff readiness
 - Depth and breadth of engagement
 - ACT(s) currently in place
 - Tools and templates currently in place (e.g. medical directives)
 - Timeline for implementation

4. *Ability to Address Priority Focus*

- Pediatrics
- Labour and delivery
- After hours coverage
- Out of operating room diagnostics/procedures
- System pressures (e.g. Waitlist cases, ER wait times, etc.)

Short-listed hospitals may then be interviewed by members of the ACT Implementation Advisory Committee.

A teleconference will be held on Wednesday June 11, 2008, from 1:30pm-3:30pm, so that hospitals have an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification regarding the Expression of Interest form and the application process. Dialing details are provided below:

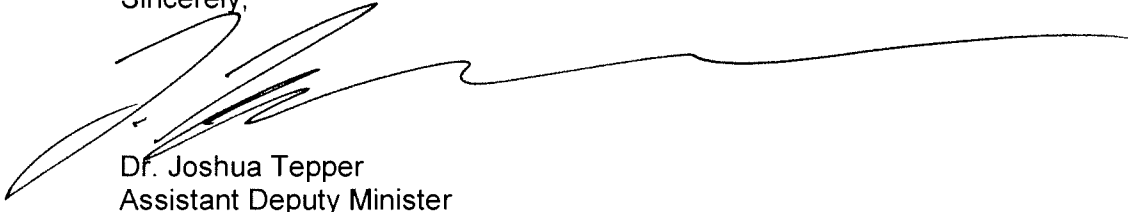
Within GTA	416-212-0400
Outside the GTA:	1-866-355-2663
Passcode:	1706#

Please email Debbie Stearns, ACT Project Coordinator, Alternative Payment Programs Branch, at 416-327-6804 or debbie.stearns@ontario.ca by end of day, Monday June 9, 2008, to indicate your participation in the teleconference. We would appreciate receiving your questions in advance of the teleconference.

If you are unable to participate in the call but have questions, please contact Catherine Pepevnak, ACT Project Manager, Alternative Payment Programs Branch, at 416-327-8441 or catherine.pepevnak@ontario.ca.

Thank you very much for your interest in this initiative.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joshua Tepper
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: LHIN CEOs

Dr. Charlotte Moore, Provincial Lead, Access to Pediatric Services
Dr. Keith Rose, Project Lead, Ontario ACT Demonstration Project

Phase 2 Anesthesia Care Team Demonstration Sites – Expression of Interest (EOI) Form
(Complete submission includes EOI Form and Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire)

Due: Monday, July 14, 2008. Please send your completed submission(s) to: Catherine Pepevnak, ACT Project Manager, Alternative Payment Programs Branch, 1075 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Suite #301, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2B1 and/or catherine.pepevnak@ontario.ca

1. Contact Information

Hospital Corporation	
Hospital Site (where applicable)	
Primary Contact	
Phone	
Fax	
Email	

2. Please identify (✓) the key intra-operative area addressed by your proposal. Note: A separate EOI form must be completed for each proposal and key area.

Pediatrics	
Labour and delivery	
After hours coverage	
Out of operating room diagnostics/procedures	
System pressures (e.g. waitlist cases, ER wait times, etc.)	

3. Please provide the rationale for your ACT Demonstration Site proposal.

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Phase 2 Anesthesia Care Team Demonstration Sites – Expression of Interest (EOI) Form
(Complete submission includes EOI Form and Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire)

4. Please describe your ACT proposal in detail using the chart provided below:

- The roles and responsibilities of the other health care professionals (e.g. monitoring joint patients in the block room)
- The location where other health care professionals will work (e.g. operating room, labour and delivery, diagnostic imaging, etc.)
- The expected outcomes (e.g. relieve 1 FTE anesthesiologist for other operative anesthesia services, increase cases per OR/day, etc.)
- The relevance to and transferability of this program to other hospitals in Ontario
- The type of other health care professionals employed - Registered Nurses, Respiratory Therapist, Nurse Practitioners - Anesthesia
- The FTE required - Registered Nurses and/or Respiratory Therapists

Description	Expected Outcome	FTE Required

Phase 2 Anesthesia Care Team Demonstration Sites – Expression of Interest (EOI) Form
(Complete submission includes EOI Form and Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire)

5. To understand the anesthesia shortage at your institution, please complete the table provided below. Completion of the more detailed Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire will assist in this summary.

Summary of Anesthesia Resources	FTE
Current number of anesthesiologists	
Number of anesthesiologists required	
Anesthesiologist shortfall	
Duration of shortfall (in months)	
Number of anesthesiologists that have joined your institution in the last 2 years	
Number of anesthesiologists that have left your institution in the last 2 years	
Other relevant information – please provide details below	

Phase 2 Anesthesia Care Team Demonstration Sites – Expression of Interest (EOI) Form
(Complete submission includes EOI Form and Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire)

6. Please identify your institution's training requirements (number of RNs and/or RRTs with completed formal training and number of staff that require additional education/training).

Type of Training	Trained staff (FTE)	Require training (FTE)
Staff that meet entrance requirements and are prepared to begin training in September/October 2008		
Anesthesia Assistant – Basic Certificate Program at the Michener Institute		
Anesthesia Assistant – Advanced Certificate Program at the Michener Institute		
Anesthesia Assistant – Anesthesia Assistant Certificate Program at Fanshawe College		
Nurse Practitioner – Anesthesia Program at the University of Toronto		
Other training program – please provide details below		

Phase 2 Anesthesia Care Team Demonstration Sites – Expression of Interest (EOI) Form
(Complete submission includes EOI Form and Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire)

- 7. Please identify the clinical placement site(s) for each of the trainee(s) requested. If different than the home institution, written confirmation will be required from the host institution, prior to commencement of training.**

Type of trainee & preferred program	Clinical placement site	Confirmation obtained (Y/N)

8. Does your institution currently use anesthesia assistants and/or have an ACT in place? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, please provide a brief overview of the program including:

- The current roles and responsibilities of anesthesia assistants (e.g. monitoring patients in the cataract suite)
- The location where anesthesia assistants currently work (e.g. operating room)
- The length of time (in months) the ACT has been in operation.
- The tools and templates currently supporting the ACT (e.g. medical directives, delegation of responsibility, etc.)
- The number FTE anesthesia assistants currently employed by the institution.

ACT Experience	

Phase 2 Anesthesia Care Team Demonstration Sites – Expression of Interest (EOI) Form
(Complete submission includes EOI Form and Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire)

9. Please describe the key factors impacting your institution's ability to successfully establish an ACT and the anticipated implementation date for the pilot.

Key Factors	Implementation Date

10. Please provide a summary of the costs, indicating the hospital's contribution and the request for funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Summary of Costs	June 08-May 09	June 09-May 10
Staffing Costs*		
Training/Orientation Costs**		
Other Costs – provide details		
Total Cost		
Hospital Contribution		
FUNDING REQUEST		

*Staffing Costs are fixed at \$94,500 per FTE anesthesia assistant

**Training/Orientation Costs may be fixed

Phase 2 Anesthesia Care Team Demonstration Sites – Expression of Interest (EOI) Form
(Complete submission includes EOI Form and Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire)

11. Please describe your institution's plan to sustain the program once the 2-year pilot is complete.

Long-term Sustainability Plan

Note: The ACT demonstration project includes an evaluative component which is integral to the initiative. The evaluation tool and indicators will assess patient safety and clinical efficiencies as well as patient and staff satisfaction. All ACT demonstration sites must agree to participate in this regular ongoing assessment throughout the 2-year life cycle of the project.

☐ We agree

Chief Executive Officer

Chief of Anesthesia

Director of Operative Services

Date

Anesthesia Resource Questionnaire

Identify the number of clinical locations that must be staffed on a daily basis by anesthesiologists or other suitably trained health professionals (Registered Nurses or Respiratory Therapists). These locations are called Daily Anesthetic Locations (DALs). Each DAL represents the need, to the exclusion of other activities, for an anesthesiologist or other suitably trained health professional five days per week.

Step 1: DEMAND: Identify the number of full time equivalent (FTE) DALs for each hospital campus/site as of September 5, 2006.				
Daily Anaesthetic Locations	Hospital campus/site	Hospital campus/site	Hospital campus/site	Total
Operating Rooms				0
ICU/CVICU				0
TEE				0
Acute Pain Service				0
Chronic Pain Clinic				0
Pre-Anesthetic Clinic				0
D&T/Labs (ex-ray, CV lab, etc)				0
Obstetrics (daytime coverage)				0
Other (e.g. cysto)				0
Other (e.g. litho)				0
OR on-call coverage				0
Obstetrics on-call coverage				0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

STEP 2: SUPPLY: Identify the number of FTE staff resources (physicians and other specially trained health professionals dedicated to your hospital on a regular basis) supporting the provision of anesthesia services at each hospital campus as of September 5, 2006

Staffing	Hospital campus/site	Hospital campus/site	Hospital campus/site	Total
Physician Staffing (FTE)				
Anesthesiologists				0
Fellows				0
Locums				0
Other Health Care Professionals (FTE)				
Total Respiratory Therapists				0
Technical Role Only				0
Technical & Clinical Role				0
Total Registered Nurses				0
TRIAGE pre-operative services				0
intra-operative services				0
post-operative services				0
Total Weeks of Vacation				
Position	# of FTE	weeks vacation	total weeks vacation	
Anesthesiologists	0	8	0	
Fellows	0	5	0	
Other Health Care Professionals	0	4	0	
Total			0	

STEP 3: Identify operating room closures throughout the year for 2006.

Total Weeks of OR Closures at ALL Hospitals/Campuses			
Month	weeks closed	ORs closed	total weeks saved
March			0
Summer			0
Summer			0
December			0
December			0
Total			0
Total Weeks of Vacation Requiring Staff Coverage (vacation - OR closures)			0
FTE required for vacation replacement			0.0

STEP 4: Identify potential areas where your hospital could benefit from additional specially trained non physician health care professionals.

STEP 5: Identify enablers and barriers to the implementation of Anesthesia Care Teams at your hospital.

STEP 6: Please provide contact information for your hospital.

Hospital Corporation	
Chief of Anesthesia	
Email address for Chief of Anesthesia	
Manager/Director of Operative Services	
Email address for Manager/Director	

SUMMARY TABLE	
Required Anesthesiologist FTE	
Current DALs	0.0
Vacation Replacement	0.0
Total	0.0
Current Anesthesiologist FTE	
Anesthesiologists	0.0
Fellows	0.0
Other health care professionals	0.0
Total	0.0
Shortfall FTE	0.0