



LHINSight

LHINSight is the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) electronic newsletter. Please share it with colleagues, clients, friends and family.

Creating a health care system that helps keep people healthy, gets them good care when they are sick, and will be there for our children and grandchildren.

October 2011 - Volume 1

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Learn How Access to Care is Improving

Together with health system partners, the LHIN works to improve people's access to care. Access to Care – Patient Flow focuses on how people move between services within the health care system. Various programs and services are in place to help improve alternate level of care (ALC) and emergency department (ED) patient flow.

[Read more...](#)

Join Donna Cripps at Public Talk on Age Friendly Communities

On Wednesday, October 19, 2011, Donna Cripps, CEO will speak at a public talk about Hamilton as an age friendly community. Donna will speak about LHIN initiatives that are improving the quality of and access to care for seniors in Hamilton and throughout the LHIN communities.

[Read more...](#)

Support for Families Living with Dementia

Alzheimer's disease and other dementia impacts the person living with the disease and also their caregiver. Local help is available to support families living with dementia. This video features caregivers to people with dementia

speaking about the importance of seeking support early.

[Read more...](#)

Good News from Our Partners

Read some of the good news from our partners in health.

[Read more...](#)

Events Calendar

Check out upcoming events in the HNHB LHIN, including the **HNHB LHIN board business meeting October 25, 2011.**

[Read more...](#)

LHINs are the only organizations in Ontario that bring together health care partners from the following sectors – hospitals, community care, community support services, community mental health and addictions, community health centres and long-term care – to develop innovative, collaborative solutions leading to more timely access to high quality services for the residents of Ontario and HNHB LHIN communities. By supporting these important partnerships, LHINs are ensuring that Ontarians have access to an effective and efficient health care system that delivers improved health care results and a better patient experience.

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Learn How Access to Care is Improving

Together with health system partners, the LHIN works to improve people's access to care.

Access to Care – Patient Flow focuses on how people move between services within the health care system, for example the transition from community services to hospital, through the required programs and services and from hospital to home. Issues arise when people don't have access to a particular health care setting or service when they need it. For instance, when a person is waiting in an acute hospital bed after recovering from their acute illness for an alternate level of care (ALC), such as rehabilitation or convalescent care and access to that care setting is not readily available.

Having a high number of individuals waiting in hospital beds for an alternate level of care setting impedes patient flow, can impact patients and the health care system.

For patients:

- Recovery may be delayed and for seniors, may regress while waiting to move to an appropriate care setting
- Unnecessarily long hospital stays expose individuals to a higher risk of hospital acquired complications

For the health care system:

- A high number of acute care beds occupied by people waiting for an alternate level of care may result in cancelled elective surgeries and long emergency department wait times for people waiting to be admitted to hospital.
- Health care providers are funded to provide specific programs and services and have an obligation to

maintain a balanced budget. Health care providers can become challenged when providing programs and services in addition to maintaining services to individuals that no longer require this level of care and are waiting for an alternate level of care.

The LHIN has two Steering Committees comprised of clinical and administrative experts that are working with LHIN and health service providers in the community and in hospitals to improve patient flow:

- HNHB LHIN Alternate Level of Care Steering Committee
- HNHB LHIN Emergency Services Steering Committee

For information about programs and services that help improve ALC and emergency department patient flow, [click here](#).

Join Donna Cripps at Public Talk on Age Friendly Communities

On Wednesday, October 19, 2011, Donna Cripps, CEO will speak at a public talk about Hamilton as an age friendly community. Donna will speak about LHIN initiatives that are improving the quality of and access to care for seniors in Hamilton and throughout the LHIN communities. Other speakers include Dr. Margaret Denton, Chair of the Hamilton Council on Aging; and geriatrician, Dr. Sharon Marr.

The lecture is part of the Successful Aging Speakers' Series hosted by Hamilton Health Sciences and McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences.

[Click here](#) to view the flyer for more information and to RSVP.

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. followed by Q&A

St. Peter's Hospital - Auditorium

88 Maplewood Avenue, Hamilton

Support for Families Living with Dementia

Alzheimer's disease and other dementia impacts the person living with the disease and also their caregiver. Local help is available to support families living with dementia.

To learn about local resources available, contact:

- HNHB Community Care Access Centre: 310-CCAC (2222) (no area code required)
- Alzheimer Society of Brant: 519-759-7692
- Alzheimer Society of Haldimand Norfolk: 519-428-7771
- Alzheimer Society of Hamilton Halton : 905-529-7030
- Alzheimer Society of Niagara: 905-687-3914

Check out this video featuring caregivers to people with dementia speaking about the importance of seeking support early.

Video produced by the Champlain Community Access Centre (www.champlain.ccac-ont.ca) the Alzheimer Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County (www.alzheimer.ca/ottawa) and the Champlain Dementia Network (www.champlaindementia.org). Directed by the Peabody Award-winning Director Firdaus Kharas of Chocolate Moose Media (www.chocmoose.com).

Good News from Our Partners

New program reduces wait for lung cancer diagnosis and treatment

Niagara patients with a suspicion of lung cancer are being diagnosed and treated much faster since a new program, the largest and busiest of its kind in the province, began a year ago. The wait time for a diagnosis has dropped dramatically – from an average of 95 days to an average of 27 days – with the launch in September 2010 of the Lung Diagnostic Assessment Program (LDAP), a partnership between the Niagara Health System (NHS), Juravinski Cancer Centre, Cancer Care Ontario and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.

Read the rest of the [article in Bullet News Niagara](#).

Lights and sounds stimulate brain activity in patients with Alzheimer's

A new tool - the Snoezelen cart - is being used at St. Peter's Hospital to help patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Using colourful lights and soothing sounds, the tool can help patients unlock past memories and stimulate brain activity.

Read the [article in the Hamilton Community News](#).

Community program enables Regis to live at home

The Wellness Supportive Living Program (WSLP) - a LHIN-funded program designed to help seniors live independently at home - is helping 87-year-old Regis, and many others to continue living at home. The program helps people avoid hospital visits and stays, helps them return home sooner from a hospital stay, and helps avoid premature admission to long-term care.

Read the [article in Niagara This Week](#) and [watch the video](#) about the WSLP.

Upcoming Events

Community Events

Thursday, October 13, 2011

[Spiritual Care of Persons with Dementia](#)

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Brantford

Thursday, October 19, 2011

[The 'Spirit' of Elder Care: Practicing Connection, Gratitude and Hope](#)

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Brantford

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

[Designing Age Friendly Communities: How does Hamilton stack up?](#)

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Hamilton

Thursday, October 20, 2011

[Food for Thought Symposium: Historical Approaches to Healthy Aging](#)

9:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Jarvis

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

[Suicide Prevention: The Whole Picture](#)

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hamilton

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

[HNHB LHIN Board Business Meeting](#)

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Grimsby

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

[Problem Gambling - Sharing Solutions. Changing Lives](#)

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

St. Catharines

For more community events, [click here](#).

Health Service Provider Events

October 19, 2011: [EQUIP for Action on Diversity: Understand](#) (Part 2 of 3)

October 20, 2011: [Starting HELP at Your Hospital](#)

October 21, 2011: [MacHAnd Day of Evaluation & Management of the Upper Extremity](#)

October 25, 2011: [Suicide Prevention: The Whole Picture](#)

October 30, 2011: [Annual McMaster Update in Thromboembolism and Hemostasis](#)

November 16, 2011: [2011 Evidence-Based Management of the Diabetes Epidemic](#)

November 16, 2011: [EQUIP for Action on Diversity: Implement and Propagate](#) (Part 3 of 3)

November 30, 2011: [Drugs and the Elderly: Too many or too few?](#)

For more HSP events, [click here](#).

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