



## 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.*

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## August 2012

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## Technology Helping to Improve Access to Care

More residents living in the HNHB LHIN will benefit from specialist care closer to home as the HNHB LHIN invests in eight new telemedicine nurse practitioners and nurses to expand care delivery. For residents this means improved access to health care, less travel and an increase in the types of health care services available in underserved areas of the HNHB LHIN.

[Read more...](#)

## Donna's Blog - August 2012

Check out an excerpt from Donna Cripps' latest blog post and be sure to read her next post on

Monday, September 10, 2012.

[Read more...](#)

## Better Quality of Life for Seniors Thanks to Assisted Living

Seniors who are at high risk of a hospital visit or prematurely going to a long-term care home are experiencing better quality of life and many more are able to continue living independently in the community thanks to LHIN-funded enhanced assisted living services.

[Read more...](#)

## Provide Input for Ontario's Seniors Strategy

Ontario is moving forward in developing its Seniors Care Strategy, which will help older Ontarians (age 65 and older) stay healthy, live at home longer and receive the right care, at the right time and in the right place. To support the development of this strategy, Dr. Samir Sinha, Expert Lead, Seniors Care Strategy, is asking all Ontarians, but especially older Ontarians, their families and caregivers, and health and social care professionals for their input.

[Read more...](#)

## New Hospital in St. Catharines Impresses HNHB LHIN Board & Staff

Just a few weeks ago, HNHB LHIN Board and staff members had the opportunity to tour the new Niagara Health System (NHS) hospital and Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines. The tour was captured in a short, two-minute video.

[Read more...](#)

## Integration Toolkit Available on Website

Attention Community-Based Health Service Providers: We recently posted a new integration resource on our website for YOU. Read the document: *From Strategy to Implementation: An integration toolkit for community-based health service providers*.

[Read more...](#)

## Get Involved in French Language Health Services Planning

The French Language Health Planning Entity for the HNHB and Waterloo Wellington LHINs works with both LHINs to improve access to and integration of French language health services. To learn more about the Entity and how you can get involved, visit the Entity's recently launched website at [www.entitesante2.ca](http://www.entitesante2.ca).

[Read more...](#)

## Notice: Diabetes Testing Report

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Ontario Diabetes Strategy's Baseline Diabetes Dataset Initiative (BDDI) will be sending an updated Diabetes Testing Report (DTR) to participating primary health providers across the province in Summer/Fall 2012.

[Read more...](#)

## Good News from Our Partners

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

- Province Improving Access to Emergency Care
- Province will Support Hamilton Mental Health Facility
- John Noble Retrofit Impresses Matthews
- BCHS Joins Organ Donation Network

[Read more...](#)

## Feature Tweets

Stay informed of HNHB LHIN initiatives and activities by following us on Twitter.

[Read more...](#)

## Events Calendar

Check out upcoming events in the HNHB LHIN including the **Board education meeting August 22 and business meeting August 29, 2012.**

[Read more...](#)

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## Technology Helping to Improve Access to Care

More residents living in the HNHB LHIN will benefit from specialist care closer to home as the HNHB LHIN invests in eight new telemedicine nurse practitioners and nurses to expand care delivery. For residents this means improved access to health care, less travel and an increase in the types of health care services available in underserved areas of the HNHB LHIN.

For example, residents in areas where there is a shortage of psychiatrists, such as Niagara and Haldimand-Norfolk, can connect with psychiatrists in Hamilton without having to travel to the city. One telemedicine clinic held in Haldimand-Norfolk enabled eight residents to connect virtually with a psychiatrist, avoiding a combined 800 kilometers in travel.

**"I'm thrilled that these new nursing positions and telemedicine sites are improving access to care for the residents of HNHB LHIN," comments Donna Cripps, CEO, HNHB LHIN. "By investing in this technology and the people who use it, we can ensure the people of this community continue to receive high quality, seamless health care so close to home."**

The telemedicine nurses will use the latest technology for virtual patient consultations, assessments, training and knowledge exchange. Using telemedicine, health care professionals are able to deliver clinical care using live, two-way videoconferencing systems and related diagnostic equipment. Patients and health care practitioners are able to speak together and information such as blood pressure, respiratory function and test results can be instantaneously transmitted.

### Telemedicine Media Release



## Quick Facts

- HNHB LHIN is investing more than \$800,000 in new telemedicine nurses.
- Five new telemedicine nurse practitioners and/or nurses have already been hired across HNHB LHIN, with three more to be hired soon.
- The hiring process is being led by the Niagara Region Public Health Department and by Community Addiction and Mental Health Services of Haldimand & Norfolk (CAMHS).
- There are 127 OTN sites and 196 active systems in HNHB LHIN.
- In 2011-12, 6,747 individuals were served through telemedicine in HNHB LHIN. Of these, 68% were related to psychiatry/mental health.

[Click here](#) to read the media release.

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## Donna's Blog - August 2012

Check out an excerpt from Donna Cripps' latest blog post and be sure to read her next post on Monday, September 10, 2012.

### August 2012

"It's been a busy summer here at the HNHB LHIN and I wanted to stop and take a moment to thank all those who have been involved in our [ACTION work](#)!

Throughout our ACTION work, we've gained lots of valuable insight from citizens from communities across our LHIN – from the Citizens' Reference Panel, the Aboriginal and Francophone Groups, and those who completed our online feedback form. We certainly heard some great ideas – ideas that are innovative, fresh and clever.

...Recently, the issue of wait times has garnered quite a bit of media coverage in our LHIN and across the province. We know wait times is a hot topic in health care. We will be dedicating space on our website so you can track the health system's performance over time. For everyone to understand our health system better it's important that this information be available to you in a timely fashion – we will continue to be transparent and accountable."

[Read the full blog post.](#)



[Sign up to receive Donna's Blog](#)

## Better Quality of Life for Seniors Thanks to Assisted Living

Seniors who are at high risk of a hospital visit or prematurely going to a long-term care home are experiencing better quality of life and many more are able to continue living independently in the community thanks to LHIN-funded enhanced assisted living services in St. Catharines, Welland, Niagara Falls, Burlington and Brantford. Enhanced assisted living provides high risk seniors with access to a range of coordinated services, including scheduled and on call personal care, primary care, in-home nursing and therapy, homemaking, health promotion/education, and other community supports such as transportation, meals and adult day services.



Improved access to community-based care and supports also helps to optimize the use of scarce health care resources by reducing avoidable 911 calls, visits to the emergency department, days spent in hospital after an acute care stay is completed and referrals to long-term care homes.

The HNHB LHIN has invested in enhanced assisted living services for high risk seniors in geographic areas of the LHIN where collaborative partnerships have been formed among local health service providers. These partnerships are making the best use of existing resources to address unmet service needs. These partnerships have arisen from a broader group of health and human service providers who are members of the LHIN's local 'Community Collaboratives'. These five Collaboratives were established by the LHIN in the fall of 2011 to support local, cross-sector planning and integration across the HNHB LHIN's geographic areas: Brant, Burlington, Hamilton, Haldimand-

Norfolk and Niagara.

Membership includes all LHIN-funded health service providers (Community Care Access Centre, Community Health Centres, Community Support Services, Hospitals and Mental Health and Addiction agencies) as well as non-LHIN funded providers of health and human services, such as primary care, housing, public health, emergency health services, etc. The Collaboratives meet on a monthly basis in each of these five communities and attendance is open to any organization which has an interest in improving the health of the population, the client/patient experience of care and the sustainability of the health care system.

For more information, read the article, [Enhancing Capacity in the Community](#) in the November 2011 issue of LHINSight.

**To learn more about the Community Collaboratives or if you would like to participate, please contact:**



**Shirley Stewart, Advisor, Health System Transformation**

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## Provide Input for Ontario's Seniors Strategy

Ontario is moving forward in developing its Seniors Care Strategy, which will help older Ontarians (age 65 and older) stay healthy, live at home longer and receive the right care, at the right time and in the right place. To support the development of this strategy, Dr. Samir Sinha, Expert Lead, Seniors Care Strategy, is asking all Ontarians, but especially older Ontarians, their families and caregivers, and health and social care professionals for their input.

In fall 2012, Dr. Sinha will provide recommendations to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and will work with the health care sector to implement the strategy, once approved.

A five minute, anonymous questionnaire provides an opportunity for Ontarians interacting with the health care system to have a voice and provide their perspective on things that matter to them. The information and insight you provide will help to inform our plans to better support older Ontarians stay healthy and live at home longer.

To learn more and to participate in the survey, [click here](#) or on the button below.

On August 13, 2012, Dr. Sinha visited the HNHB LHIN and some of its partners to learn about the work underway to address care and services for seniors. **Don't miss the September 13 issue of LHINSight for the full story!**



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## New Hospital in St. Catharines Impresses HNHB LHIN Board & Staff

Just a few weeks ago, HNHB LHIN Board and staff members had the opportunity to tour the new Niagara Health System (NHS) hospital and Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines. The tour was captured in a short, two-minute video.

### Why you should watch this video:

- Hear what LHIN Board and staff have to say about the new facility
- Get a quick, two-minute tour of the new St. Catharines site
- Get an update on development and what the NHS is doing to turn the building into a hospital

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## Integration Toolkit Available on Website

**Attention Community-Based Health Service Providers:**

**We recently posted a new integration resource on our website for YOU.**

Earlier this year WoodGreen Community Services (WCS) and Community Care East York (CCEY) – located in the Toronto Central LHIN - combined operations under a single corporation. This represented the culmination of a nine-month effort involving extensive negotiations, planning and engagement with communities, funders and other stakeholders. The Toronto Central LHIN invited and provided funding to WCS to develop and share an “integration toolkit”, so that other health service providers and non-profit organizations may benefit. Recognizing that all integration transactions are unique, the hope is that organizations can use the toolkit as a general resource, adapting the approach where necessary to take into account their own specific circumstances.

This toolkit is intended for those Board members and senior executives that are considering integration as a means of advancing their organization's mission and strategy. The toolkit reviews the key phases of an integration transaction in some detail, incorporating many tools and examples. Integrations can be complex and outside the normal comfort zone for many Boards and executives. However, we believe that the chances of success improve significantly if organizations are well prepared and focus on execution. We hope that the experience and lessons learned outlined in this toolkit will be of some benefit in this regard.

*[From Strategy to Implementation: An integration toolkit for community-based health service providers](#)*

### **What this resource will help you do:**

- Better understand integration
- Assess your organization's readiness and help you identify potential opportunities for integration
- Develop a strategy including engagement and implementation

*This toolkit is available on our website at [www.hnhblhin.on.ca](http://www.hnhblhin.on.ca) under 'Planning and Integration' > Health System Planning and You' under the 'Resources' heading.*

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# Get Involved in French Language Health Services Planning

The French Language Health Planning Entity for the HNHB and Waterloo Wellington LHINs works with both LHINs to improve access to and integration of French language health services.

To learn more about the Entity and how you can get involved, visit the Entity's recently launched website at [www.entitesante2.ca](http://www.entitesante2.ca).

To learn more about the history and the role of the Entity, visit the HNHB LHIN website by [clicking here](#).

[Entitesante2.ca](http://Entitesante2.ca)



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## Notice: Diabetes Testing Report

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Ontario Diabetes Strategy's Baseline Diabetes Dataset Initiative (BDDI) will be sending an updated Diabetes Testing Report (DTR) to participating primary health providers across the province in Summer/Fall 2012. Since its inception in May 2010, over 6,300 primary care providers have joined the initiative and received DTR listing testing dates for three key diabetes tests (blood glucose, cholesterol, retinal eye exam) for over 619,500 adult Ontarians with diabetes.

Improved management of diabetes can have significant benefits for individuals with diabetes and their families. The ministry is committed in its drive to help Ontarians living with diabetes, and the BDDI is an important part of this commitment. In Fall 2011, a public notice campaign ran online and in print media to notify Ontarians of the fourth wave of the BDDI. Similar to the three previous notices, this notice informed Ontarians about the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information as part of this important initiative. Copies of this notice and details regarding withdrawing or reinstating consent can be found at the [ministry's website](#). More details about the [Diabetes Testing Report](#) and other information about the Ontario Diabetes Strategy can be found at [www.ontario.ca/diabetes](http://www.ontario.ca/diabetes) or by calling 1-800-291-1405 (TTY: 1-800-387-5559).

## Good News from Our Partners

### Province Improving Access to Emergency Care

Ontario is improving access to emergency services by investing in nurses who provide timely care to ambulance patients. Hamilton will receive \$1.4 million for dedicated nursing hours at the Hamilton General Hospital, Juravinski Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital.

[Read the article in the Hamilton Spectator.](#)

### Province will Support Hamilton Mental Health Facility

Ontario health minister Deb Matthews says the province will provide enough money to operate St. Joseph's Healthcare new redevelopment for mental health care on West 5th in Hamilton.

[Read the CBC News article.](#)

### John Noble Retrofit Impresses Matthews

Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews toured the ongoing bed retrofit renovations at the John Noble Home — and its new Day and Stay program on Wednesday — and pronounced herself impressed.

[Read the article in the Brantford Expositor.](#)

### BCHS Joins Organ Donation Network

In an effort to assist those waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) has joined the Trillium Gift of Life Network and will alert the organization of any potential donor patients.

[Click here to watch the newsclip on CHCH News.](#)

[Click here to read more good news stories.](#)

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## Feature Tweets

- Donna thanks folks 4 their involvement w/ ACTION & talks about new wait times section on website - Donna's Blog: [bit.ly/Nu8eLC](http://bit.ly/Nu8eLC)
- Hamilton to get \$1.3 million for offload nurses to relieve ED pressures on EMS -- another great investment in people <http://bit.ly/Nlj4JW>
- RT @CAMHnews: New today: CAMH launches website to help pregnant women quit smoking - <http://ow.ly/cQXSC>
- RT @addictionniagara: Have a family member that's coping with a serious mental illness? New 12 week workshop starting in Sept. <http://www.familysupportniagara.com>

Follow @HNHB\_LHINgage to stay informed of HNHB LHIN initiatives and activities.

We want to stay informed too - let us know if you're on Twitter!



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## Upcoming Events

### Community Events

**Wednesday, August 22, 2012**

[HNHB LHIN Board Meeting - Education](#)

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Grimsby

**Thursday, August 23, 2012**

[BBQ in Support of Brain Injury Community Re-Entry Niagara](#)

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Welland

**Wednesday, August 29, 2012**

[HNHB LHIN Board Meeting - Business](#)

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Grimsby

**Monday, September 3, 2012**

Labour Day

HNHB LHIN Office CLOSED

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

### Health Service Provider Events

**August 24, 2012:** [SUBMISSION DEADLINE - Call for Abstracts - Innovative Practice in Mental Health and Addiction](#)

**September 21-22, 2012:** [Cardiology Update 2012](#)

**September 27-28, 2012:** [Geriatric Assessment Training Program](#)

November 21, 2012: [Decoding Diagnostics](#)

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

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