

WWLHINformation

Waterloo Wellington LHIN



Waterloo Wellington LHIN eNewsletter - February 7th Edition

The WWLHINformation eNewsletter is a bi-weekly update to keep you informed of the latest news, events, and successes in health care across the WWLHIN as we continue working together to build an integrated and sustainable health system for residents in Waterloo Wellington.

As part of the eNewsletter, we are looking for your contributions. Are you looking for a new way to share information or invite the community to health care related events? Send your news and events with links to more information and we'll include it in an upcoming edition.

Please forward WWLHINformation to others who may be interested in local health care news and events. For new readers, please [click here](#) to subscribe. To unsubscribe please send an email to connie.coggan@lhins.on.ca.

Partnership Initiative Focuses on Quality Care for ALC Patients

The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network's (WWLHIN) Transitional Care Program has expanded with the opening of 35 interim long-term care beds. With the support of Cambridge Memorial Hospital (CMH), Lutheran Homes Kitchener-Waterloo will operate the beds on the 5th floor at the Cambridge hospital. The first residents arrived the week of January 31. This brings the total of WWLHIN funded transition beds to 118 for the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year, with an investment of \$3.9 million.

The transitional care beds are in place for a specified time period until the full complement of the new 332 long-term care beds open across Waterloo Wellington. In November 2010, 96 new beds opened at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph. The next 96 will open at Village of Riverside Glen (Oakwood Retirement Communities), Guelph, in Spring 2011. A further 96 will open at Hilltop Manor (peopleCare Inc.), Cambridge, and 44 will be added at Pinehaven Nursing Home, Waterloo, over the next two years.

For more information, [click here](#).

Update on the Waterloo Region Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic

On January 21st and 24th, the Waterloo Region Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic hosted two information sessions at Langs Farm Village Association in Cambridge. The clinic will have two sites, one at Conestoga College in Kitchener and one in

Downtown Galt in Cambridge. Langs Farm Village Association and Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning are primary partners in the start up of the Waterloo Region Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic. The Galt site is expected to open this coming Spring. Updates will continue as plans for the Clinic's opening progress.

Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics are a new primary health care delivery model in which Nurse Practitioners are the lead providers of primary health care. Through a collaborative practice approach which includes Registered Nurses, Registered Practical Nurses, collaborating family physicians, and other health care professionals. Nurse practitioners provide comprehensive, accessible, and coordinated family health care services to populations who do not have access to a primary care provider (i.e. unattached patients). The Waterloo Region Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic is an independent organization that will be governed by a Board of Directors that consists of Nurse Practitioners (51% membership) and local community leaders.

For more information about the clinic or board membership, please contact: Paula Carere, Board Chair, for the Waterloo Region Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic at (519) 653-1470 ext. 243 or paulac@langs.org or Bill Davidson, Board Member, at 519-653-1470 x236 or billd@langs.org.

Board Chair of the Waterloo Region Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic Paula Carere was recently featured in Canadian Living. [Click here](#) to view the article.

Four WWLHIN Hospitals Receive Performance Funding for EDs

Four hospitals in the Waterloo Wellington LHIN are receiving performance funding through the province's Emergency Department (ED) Pay for Results (P4R) initiative. The hospitals will share \$239,200 for exceeding targets as part of the P4R initiative during the second quarter of the fiscal year, July 2010 - September 2010. Cambridge Memorial Hospital will receive \$121,900, Grand River Hospital will receive \$17,400. Guelph General Hospital will receive \$63,900 and St. Mary's General Hospital will receive \$36,000.

Through the Pay-for-Results program, the province is ensuring that more patients are admitted or discharged within the provincial targets and helping hospitals reduce the total time patients spend in the ED.

The WWLHIN and local hospitals have been working hard to make sure that when residents need emergency care, they receive high quality care that is both timely and effective. As part of the province's ED strategy, hospitals in the WWLHIN were chosen to pilot the ED Process Improvement Program (PIP). The program is designed to improve patient flow and patient satisfaction through evaluating the patient experience from entry in the ED to discharge from an inpatient unit.

For more information, [click here](#).

Provincial Consultation on Rural Health Care in Drayton



On February 1st, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care hosted a community consultation in Drayton, Ontario. The consultation gave local residents the opportunity to provide feedback on the Ontario Rural and Northern Health Care Panel's Report and Recommendations.

The discussion was focused on identifying gaps and suggesting solutions to provide the best access to quality health care services in rural and northern areas of the province. The comments will help the province develop a framework for Rural and Northern Health Care in Ontario.

There are still a number of ways the public can make its views known – including online and by phone. To view the Panel's Report or provide feedback online, please visit: www.ontario.ca/ruralnorthernhealth.

WWLHIN Board Chair Kathy Durst is pictured speaking at the consultation with Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and MPP for Guelph Liz Sandals, as well as consultation participants.

More Access to Health Care for Waterloo Wellington Residents

Over the past year, tremendous progress was made to enhance access to quality health care, closer to home, for residents in Waterloo Wellington. In 2010, the province, the Waterloo Wellington LHIN, and local health service providers, expanded access to health care services through a number of initiatives, including:

- Reducing emergency department (ED) wait times by 15% for all patients through the ED Process Improvement Program and Pay for Results initiatives.
- Reducing Alternate Level of Care (ALC) days in hospitals from 27% in November 2008 to 14.77% in Nov 2010 through enhanced community support services, the Home First philosophy, and implementing a transitional care program to provide interim long-term care support for residents waiting in hospital for placement in long-term care, hospice, or returning home with supports.
- Opening 96 new long-term care beds at St. Joseph's Health Centre in Guelph.
- Opening Sunnyside Home, a 30-unit supportive housing facility for seniors in Kitchener.
- Starting construction of 96 new long-term care beds at Hilltop Manor in Cambridge.
- Expanding mental health services at Grand River Hospital and Cambridge Memorial Hospital.
- Announcing a new Family Health Team in Guelph – the Mango Tree Family Health Team.
- Creating a new Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic in Waterloo Region.
- Starting to implement the nine recommendations outlined in the WWLHIN Rural Health Care Review Report to enhance health care services for rural residents.
- Helping residents with diabetes better manage their care through the eHealth enabled HEALTHeCONNECTIONS project; and much more....

For more information, [click here](#).

Long-Term Care Home Residents Benefiting From MedsCheck Program

On January 24th, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced that more than 37,000 MedsCheck consultations have taken place in Ontario's long-term care homes in the first three months since the launch of the new free service. That means more Ontario seniors have had a one-on-one, in person consultation with their pharmacist to review their medications.

MedsCheck for Long-Term Care is one of three new services now being offered under the MedsCheck program. The others are:

- MedsCheck for Diabetes: for Ontarians living with type 1 or type 2 diabetes, and
- MedsCheck at Home: for people who are home-bound and have difficulty traveling to a pharmacy, a community pharmacist will visit the person in their home for the review.

For more information, [click here](#).



