



Managing Director's Monthly Report

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Emergency Preparedness Workshops - May 2007

In May 2007, the HCNSEO's Incident Management Committee continues its tradition of holding three workshops across Southeastern Ontario to assist local health care agencies with emergency preparedness planning.

The theme of the spring workshop series is *Advancing Emergency Management Through a Safety Culture* and will offer all key stakeholders the opportunity to gain practical knowledge from professional emergency managers across the province. A safety culture is critical in preparing for the unknown. Stronger linkages between emergency managers, infection control and occupational health and safety practitioners will ensure improved and safer work processes and integrated emergency planning activities.

The workshop will consist of a morning speaker series covering the following topics:

- Health and safety in emergency management,

- Infection control networks, and
- Business continuity planning.

The afternoon session will feature a pandemic influenza tabletop exercise and debriefing. The objectives of this activity are:

- To provide an opportunity to exchange, discuss and inform,
- To further develop awareness, identify gaps and issues that need to be addresses, and
- To promote linkages between organizations.

The workshop is offered at three locations:

Belleville (Ramada Inn)	May 15
Brockville (CJ's Banquet Hall)	May 24
Kingston (Days Inn)	May 31

Additional information and on-line registration (\$75) is available at:

www.seohealthnet.com

Diabetes Soars Among Ontario Adults

In 1995, 5.2% of the adult population of Ontario, Canada, had diabetes. By 2005, that prevalence had increased to 8.8%, already outstripping the World Health Organization's projections for the prevalence of diabetes during the first 30 years of this century. Prevalence in Ontario has gone up particularly sharply in women aged 20-49, although men this age are not far behind.

The researchers who compiled these figures say prevalence has

increased partly because more people are developing the disease, but also because fewer people are dying from it. Between 1997 and 2003, the yearly incidence in adults over 20 rose from 6.6 per 1000 to 8.2 per 1000. Mortality from the disease fell by about a quarter between 1995 and 2005.

If prevalence continues to rise at the same rate, more than one in 10 adults living in Ontario will have diabetes by 2010.

- British Medical Journal



Report - Waterloo Hospitals Emergency Services

In October 2006, the provincial government appointed Tom Closson, former president and CEO of the University Health Network, as an investigator under the Public Hospitals Act, to review the delivery of emergency services at hospitals across Waterloo Region. Mr. Closson was to:

- Investigate and report on the emergency services system in Waterloo region, including medical coverage at Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Grand River Hospital and St. Mary's General Hospital
- Develop in collaboration with the hospitals, a plan for a comprehensive emergency service system improvement.

Mr. Closson's report was released by the government and is available at www.health.gov.on.ca

61 recommendations were made to improve the emergency services system in Waterloo. The five top priorities for addressing the current situation are:

1. New compensation arrangements from the MOHLTC and enforcement of a no top up policy by the MOHLTC to assist in achieving a full complement of Emergency physicians
2. Timely and appropriate response by specialist and sub-specialist consultants to support the Emergency Department physicians.
3. Rapid follow-up clinics for Emergency Department cases.
4. Greater clinical integration between Grand River Hospital and St. Mary's General Hospital.
5. Redesign of fast track processes and facilities and the creation of clinical decision units.



Health transfers not buying value, Fraser Institute

The federal government has provided provinces with an extra \$36 billion in health transfers since 1997, but health care is in worse shape now than it was 10 years ago, the Fraser Institute says in a report this week.

The Institute says health transfers started to increase dramatically in 1997-98 and have increased by an average annual rate of almost 13 per cent since then. But over this 10-year period, there has not been an accompanying improvement in performance: wait times to see specialists and get treatment have increased significantly, and

Canadians are waiting longer to access diagnostic imagery such as MRIs and CT scans.

"Given that the overwhelming evidence shows we're actually worse off today than we were 10 years ago, you have to wonder about the wisdom of throwing more money at the system before considering other more effective options," report co-author, and the Institute's Director of Fiscal Studies, Jan Clemens says in a news release.

For the full report, please go to: www.fraserinstitute.ca



Museum Exhibit Comes to PCCC MHS

A new exhibit about the history of mental health care at Kingston's original psychiatric hospital will chronicle the transformation of care from incarceration to rehabilitation at the end of the 19th century. The exhibit by the Museum of Health Care, "Rockwood Asylum: Refuge and Renewal 1878-1905," will be unveiled at Providence Continuing Care Centre's Mental Health Services site on March 15 to celebrate our staff and to mark 150 years of providing mental health care in Kingston.

Construction of Rockwood Asylum began in 1859 to house the "criminally insane" of Kingston Penitentiary. It was the second asylum to be built in Ontario, after Toronto. Overlooking Lake Ontario, the site was thought to have a calming effect on patients. The imposing limestone building began accepting non-criminal patients in 1868 and Rockwood became part of the Ontario provincial asylum system in 1877.

"The display explores the period at the end of the 19th century when the treatment of the mentally ill was beginning to change," explains Museum of Health Care curator Paul Robertson. "The asylums of the 1800's began transforming from a warehouse for the insane to a genuine treatment facility and full-service hospital." There was a movement away from the brutal confinements and various medicinal treatments (including alcohol) toward the recognition that mental illness is a disease that can be treated."

The exhibit tells the story of the former Rockwood Asylum through photographs and artifacts ranging from postcards to medical equipment from the era. "The exhibit includes a replica of a nurse's uniform," Robertson says. "The period marked the beginning of formal training for psychiatric nurses, the first of its kind in Ontario and one of the first in North America."

Other Updates

- There will be significant broadband capacity improvement across Southeastern Ontario this June. That is the date the Smart Systems for Health Agency is planning to increase the capacity for data exchange, videoconferencing and voice-over-Internet protocol (VoIP). Sites like the CCAC and Public Health Unit offices which currently have less than 5 Mbps capacity will be upgraded to at least 10 Mbps and in some cases 100 Mbps depending on size. Hospitals will be upgraded to a minimum of 100 Mbps with some increasing to 200 Mbps.
- On March 8, 2007, Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) issued an order to Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children following the off-site theft of a laptop computer containing personal health information of current and former patients. In addition to the specific directives set out in the order, the IPC made a number of general comments and suggestions for all health information custodians who handle electronic personal health information. All health care providers are encouraged to review their policies related to storing personal health information on laptops or mobile computing devices.
- In the March 19, 2007 federal budget, changes for health care included:
 - An additional \$400M for Canada Health Infoway to support the elimination of patient wait times.
 - Up to \$612 million to those provinces that have made commitments to implement patient wait-times guarantees as well as \$30 million over three years for pilot projects.
 - \$300 million for a vaccine program to protect women and girls against cancer of the cervix.
 - A Canadian Mental Health Commission will be established, starting in 2009-10 to lead the development of a national mental health strategy.
 - \$22 million a year will be provided to the Canadian Institute for Health Information.



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A voluntary partnership of
health service organizations
in Southeastern Ontario
who are working together to
improve the delivery of
health services in the
region.

Meetings Attended by Managing Director - March 2007

March 1 Chronic Disease Management	March 20 CEO Committee
March 5 South East Region Infection Control	Incident Management Committee
March 7 South East Information & Referral Portal Project (SE CCAC)	March 22 Kingston Bed Shortage Conference Queen's University
March 8 ITCSC Operations Committee	Regional Stroke Strategy Committee
March 9 TEN Dir-PACS teleconference	March 23 Southeastern Ontario Integration Project - Human Resources Meeting
South East Local Data Management Partnership	March 26 HCNSEO Meeting
March 13 Information Technology & Communications Steering Committee	March 27 Palliative Care Integration Project

www.seohealthnet.com



Brockville General Hospital

