

Communiqué on Hospital Pharmacy Peer Group – February 2016

This is the third communiqué to update you on efforts of the North East LHIN Hospital Pharmacy Peer Group (HPPG) to improve the quality of pharmacy care provided to patients across Northeastern Ontario's 25 hospitals. The NE LHIN is working in partnership with the group to enhance patient care and target hospital pharmacy improvement opportunities.

HPPG partners share a vision that by 2025 all NE LHIN hospital pharmacies will be fully automated with integrated technology and staffed with registered professionals either onsite or virtually. They also see all hospitals supporting each other so that each meets accreditation and Ontario College of Pharmacy standards and achieves maximum efficiency.

The most recent HPPG face-to-face meeting (some sites attended via OTN) was held at the NE LHIN office in Sudbury on January 28, 2016. This full-day meeting included updates from our six initial priority projects, planning for the sustainability of the HPPG, and ramifications of the hospital pharmacy accreditation inspections.

Future work will focus on the sustainability of the HPPG's work beyond its March 31 funding deadline.

Updates from HPPG priority projects:

The **Minimum Order Purchasing** work group has had two meetings (December and January)

- A survey has been sent out to determine the current state of hospital pharmacy issues with regards to not meeting drug allocations and incurring additional costs on small drug orders.
- The magnitude of issues related to this project need to be determined so that we can choose priorities for this work group.

The **Unit Dose** work group has had two meetings (December and January)

- A survey is being developed by this work group to determine the level of unit dose implementation across the North East.
- There are many forms of unit dose drug distribution in our NE hospitals. This work group's goal will be to assess which form is most practical and financially realistic based on the needs of different sized hospitals.

The **Common Protocols** work group will have its final meeting by the end of February to determine a plan for the sustainability of the policies and procedures portal.

- The portal is an online database where hospital pharmacies can upload their policies and procedures to share with other NE LHIN hospitals.
- This sharing of information allows for fewer pharmacist hours to be dedicated towards writing new policies and procedures since they are adapting existing ones based on their hospital's needs rather than drafting new procedures.
- We are encouraging all NE hospitals to submit their top policies.

The **Group Purchase of Pharmacist Coverage** work group is currently being wrapped up.

- The project close-out has been approved by the HPPG.
- The recommendations decided on by this work group will be presented to the IAC (the Integration and Alignment Council). The HPPG's recommendation is to put forward a regional RFP (request for proposal) for third party pharmacist services.

The **Meditech Ongoing Support** work group has been wrapped up as of January 2016, when the HPPG's recommendation were presented to the IAC, and next steps are being discussed.

The **Chemotherapy Services at Satellite Sites** work group has successfully transitioned to the North East Regional Systemic Treatment Network (NE-RSTN). The terms of reference for the NE-RSTN were developed jointly with the HPPG, and approved at their first meeting on December 7.

Baseline hospital pharmacy assessments

The group discussed the issues identified by the baseline hospital pharmacy assessments conducted by the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP) in 2015. The recommendations provided by the OCP inspections were compiled from all hospitals in the NE LHIN to identify our hospital pharmacy priorities as a region.

Judy Chong, a pharmacist inspector from OCP, presented provincial hospital pharmacy gaps followed by themes of recommendations for NE LHIN hospitals.

For more information about the HPPG's efforts, please contact Tamara Shewciw at the NE LHIN, 705-256-1366 or tamara.shewciw@lhins.on.ca.