

This is the third communiqué to update you on the continuing 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.

The first phase of the project has now concluded successfully, with great collaboration on topics of shared interest. The HPPG initiative is now moving forward with phase 2 priorities for the 2016/17 fiscal year.

Phase one concludes

The first phase of the HPPG project has officially ended. The group held a face-to-face meeting March 3 at the NE LHIN Office in Sudbury. The meeting included:

- Discussion with Judy Chong, Manager of Hospital Practice at the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP) to clarify OCP's certification standards and vision on the future of hospital pharmacy practice.
- A presentation on the regionalization of pharmacy services in Southwestern Ontario by board members from the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists - Trent Fookes from Grey Bruce Health Services and Ryan Itterman from Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance.
- Dawn Jennings of HealthPRO procurement specialists discussed the ways HealthPRO can help with small hospital medication procurement issues.
- HPPG members agreed to the final documents and close-outs of four of the group's initial priority projects – Chemotherapy at Satellite Sites, Meditech Ongoing Support, Group Purchasing and Common Protocols.
- The Unit Dose and Minimum Order Purchasing work groups provided recommendations for addressing gaps in unit dose medication distribution and the ongoing issues related to medication procurement, including additional fees on minimum orders and allocations.



At the March face-to-face meeting, Hospital Pharmacy Peer Group (HPPG) members extended their best wishes to Joanne Weingartner, shown at right, the group's pharmacist lead. Joanne's vision and commitment assured the success of phase 1 of the group's work. She is wished all the best in her retirement. Joanne is shown at a previous HPPG meeting with (left to right) Louise Paquette, NE LHIN CEO, and Tamara Shewciw, NE LHIN Senior Director, Enabling Technologies.

Phase two priority projects

New HPPG priority projects and work plan items determined in a May teleconference included:

- **OCP Standards for Hospital Pharmacy Accreditation** – This new work group will review OCP assessment standards and identify and categorize the most important ones with respect to patient risk and likelihood of HPPG collaboration to comply with each. It will also seek clarification from OCP to fully understand emerging standards.
- **Anti-Microbial Stewardship** – Will focus on identifying issues and leveraging opportunities so that all Northeastern hospitals have an evidence-based anti-microbial stewardship program in place to optimize local anti-microbial use.
- **Outsourcing CIVA products** – CIVA, or central IV additives, are daunting from a financial standpoint but also with emerging safety and physical plant requirements to mix such additives on site. Work plan activity is aimed at identifying hospitals interested in outsourcing their CIVA products, and possibly facilitating the request for proposal process for these sites.
- **Shared Primary Care Clinical Pharmacists** – The NE LHIN will gather information including options for pharmacists in primary care settings. These models will be presented to HPPG members, where the importance of pharmacists in all aspects of health care will be highlighted.
- **Knowledge Sharing Group for Pharmacy Technicians and Assistants** – At least one pharmacy technician and assistant (or other pharmacy staff where neither is present) from each NE LHIN hospital will be involved in a new knowledge sharing group to share best practices, ask questions, and form a professional community of practice.

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.

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