

“On November 7, when I spoke at the Physician Leaders’ conference, I realized that we as a LHIN need to do a better job at communicating with you. This is our first communiqué to you. We plan on making this a monthly snapshot of initiatives underway that are important to your work as a Northeastern Ontario physician leader. Feel free to offer suggestions for future topics and as always your input is welcomed. My team and I look forward to working with you in 2015 and beyond.”

-Louise Paquette, CEO, North East LHIN

Clinical Service Review (CSR) – Implementation Begins

You have likely been involved in our CSR process to implement **Quality Based Procedures (QBP)** across our LHIN, including services related to: **stroke; CHF; COPD; total joint replacement (TJR); hip fracture; cataract; vascular surgery; endoscopy; and chemotherapy.**

One of the more significant changes means high acuity patients suffering from serious episodes of CHF, COPD and hip fractures, will now be transferred directly from a smaller hospital’s ED so that their care can begin immediately in the larger centre, where specialists are available.

A few other CSR notables include:

- **Dr. David Boyle**, from HSN, and **Nancy Jacko**, formerly with NBRHC, are leading the implementation of the QBPs across the region.
- **Patient order sets** are being implemented for hip fractures and COPD (**we will focus on this in our January communiqué**).
- Recommendations in the LHIN’s [Vision Care Plan](#) are being worked on by a group which includes the chiefs of ophthalmology and hospital administration from the hub hospitals. Priorities include: QBP for cataracts and developing common order sets to ensure clinical guidelines are followed where cataracts are performed (four hub hospitals, Parry Sound, Elliot Lake Kirkland Lake and Temiskaming).

New Publications

Managing Transitions – A new guidance document -- The Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres/OHA produced a [Guidance Document](#) to improve and manage transitions of care – key to reducing the number of ALC patients waiting in hospitals. The guide is a resource to understanding Ontario legislation related to transitions from one health care setting to another, including community settings.

Community Hospitals and Health Care in Northeastern Ontario: Transforming the Patient Experience -- On November 7, you received a copy of this [publication](#) chronicling the transformation of our community hospitals. As they continue to evolve, what ideas for models of care do you have for sustainability and patient care for fellow Northerners? We welcome your ideas at Engagingwithyou@lhins.on.ca.

Northeast is Home to Ontario’s First Virtual Critical Care Unit -- Under the leadership of Dr. Derek Manchuk, the VCU (based at HSN) is providing help to critical care units at the Elliot Lake, Kirkland Lake, Temiskaming, Kapuskasing, Timmins, North Bay, West Nipissing and Parry Sound hospitals since May. Eventually, the remaining 15 hospitals with EDs will be added. **Don’t forget to tap into this new technology and make full use of it.**

Surgical Quality Based Procedures -Volume In-Year Reallocations -- QBPs, such as hip and knee replacement and cataracts, are assigned to LHINs and hospitals based on previous year’s volumes. Our LHIN has a **Wait Time Working Group** that looks at volumes, wait times and capacity across our hospitals to ensure all volumes are completed within our region. In 2014/15, the NE LHIN funded an additional 418 cataracts. **We have also committed to fund additional hip and knee replacements in 2014/15 which we will tell you more about in February.**

EMR -- More than 76% of our region’s primary care providers are now using electronic medical records. All NE LHIN hospitals are now on Physician Office Integration and send patient discharge summaries, diagnostic imaging and lab reports electronically to primary care EMRs. **We need your help to ensure physicians and specialists at your hospitals complete these summaries quickly to ensure timely follow-up by primary care providers.**

For information on how technology can make your practice easier, contact Tamara Shewciw our Chief Information Officer and eHealth Lead at (705) 256-1366 or tamara.shewciw@lhins.on.ca.

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