

MEDIA RELEASE

Improving Diabetes Education and Care

*Call for Northerners to join a New Regional Advisory Committee
Nurse Practitioner joins North East LHIN's Diabetes Team*

September 13, 2013 - Patients, health service providers and administrators are being sought to join a new Regional Diabetes Advisory Committee which will help the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) enhance the coordination of diabetes education and care across the North East.

"We're hoping many Northerners will respond to this call to join the committee," said Martha Auchinleck, acting CEO and senior director at the North East LHIN. "We want to make sure that all voices are heard at the table, including Aboriginal and Francophone."

The Committee will meet eight times a year, six by teleconference and twice in person. Interested applicants can send an email to Jennifer.Michaud@lhins.on.ca explaining why they would like to participate on this Regional Advisory Committee.

In the fall of last year, responsibility for coordinating diabetes education programs and services was transferred to the North East LHIN from the Northern Diabetes Health Network. Since then, the North East LHIN has been working to improve coordination of care, increase access to programs, and identify both gaps and duplication of services.

The North East LHIN's newest Health Care Lead will help with the coordination of Diabetes programs and services as well as sit on this committee – Barbara Kiely, a Nurse Practitioner and Certified Diabetes Educator based in Kirkland Lake. Kiely has been involved with diabetes issues in various capacities since 1989. She has played a leadership role in diabetes education, treatment and advocacy as a founding member of her local Canadian Diabetes Association chapter and with the Northern Diabetes Health Network.

In addition, Barbara has worked to improve diabetes care in hospitals and Family Health Teams, as well as community agencies such as the Canadian Mental Health Association, Community Living, the seniors' Encore Club, First Nations groups, and the Timiskaming Diabetes program. She has even taken her expertise abroad, on a diabetes medical mission to Nicaragua.



Amanda Mathieu, RN, provides footcare to John Shedden as part of the Diabetes Education Centre at Parry Sound and Area's Foot Care Program. The North East LHIN coordinates 25 diabetes education programs and services across the region. The LHIN is looking for patients, providers and administrators interested in participating in a new Regional Advisory Committee to improve diabetes care and education in Northeastern Ontario.

“I’m committed to applying my knowledge and passion towards creating a diabetes strategy made for Northern Ontario,” said Kiely.



Barbara Kiely

Background:

- In Northeastern Ontario, 25 (21 adult and 4 pediatric) of the Diabetes Education Programs previously managed by the Northern Diabetes Health Network were transitioned to the North East LHIN in December, 2012.
- The 21 adult Diabetes Education Programs are located throughout the region within hospitals, Community Health Centres, and community agencies. The four pediatric Diabetes Education Programs are found at Health Sciences North in Sudbury, North Bay Regional Health Centre, the Group Health Centre in Sault Ste. Marie and VON’s Porcupine Diabetes Information Services in Timmins.
- Barbara Kiely will work closely with the North East LHIN’s Endocrinologist Lead for Diabetes, Dr. Boji Varghese.

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For more information: Contact Lara Bradley, communication officer with the North East LHIN at 705-674-1492, 705-207-3254, or lara.bradley@lhins.on.ca