

Communiqué on Hospital Pharmacy Peer Group – January 2016

This is the second quarterly 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.

Inaugural Chairpersons:

Two people now share the HPPG chairperson's role: **Frances Brisebois**, Clinical Supervisor, Pharmacy, at Health Sciences North; and **Marc-André Gravel**, pharmacist at the MICs Group. HPPG will meet face to face in January 2016.

Updates from HPPG work groups:

Chemotherapy Services at Satellite Sites Work Group

- A gap analysis was performed on a survey identifying the challenges and opportunities faced by hospitals within the region for chemotherapy services. In collaboration with the North East Cancer Care and Cancer Care Ontario, this working group will be transitioning into the North East Regional Systemic Treatment Network. The goal is to create a model for the North East for chemotherapy services at satellite sites.



At left, Marc-André Gravel, pharmacist at the MICs Group, co-chairs the HPPG with Frances Brisebois, Clinical Supervisor of Pharmacy at Health Sciences North. Marc-André is shown with Tamara Shewciw of the NE LHIN. Photo to right shows Frances Brisebois.

Common Protocols Work Group

- A portal has been created to address the need for a database of all pharmacy related protocols and procedures. Access will be provided to register users across the 25 hospitals, and a plan is being developed for ongoing portal maintenance.

Pharmacy Coverage Work Group

- Service gaps and pharmacy coverage have been identified due to fluctuations in human resources. The group will consider the possibility of a third-party service to allow for sustainability and reliability regardless of fluctuations in human resources.

Medical Information Technology Support Group

- A gap analysis has been done and a plan with recommendations will be prepared. A health informatics resource was identified as key to ensuring that business processes are supported properly by the Meditech/electronic system. The group discussed and developed several models to support this for the North East.

New Work Groups Established

- Two new work groups will focus on drug distribution methods and drug costs. The first group is to create a plan for the implementation of unit dose medications in all NE LHIN hospitals, to provide safer distribution and patient care. The second group will explore a solution for minimum order purchasing, which will help hospitals prevent issues such as stocking drugs that have short expiry dates, additional costs associated with small drug orders, and smaller sites being unable to meet specific drug allocations.

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.