

## **Algoma Physicians Take on Leadership Role With the North East LHIN *Helping to Better Coordinate Primary Care in Algoma***

July 30, 2015 – Dr. David Fera and Dr. Jodie Stewart are the North East Local Health Integration Network’s new Primary Care Co-Leads for the Algoma hub area.

The two physicians will work together to help better connect primary care providers with each other as well as other parts of the health care system such as home and community care. Their valuable work supports the North East LHIN’s goal of having patients receive faster access to the care they need in addition to better coordinated care.

Part of their responsibilities will be to help ensure primary care providers are engaged as active members in the area’s Health Link. The Health Link, announced last fall, is under development and has several health care partners working together to look at ways to wrap services and care around complex and high needs patients. The two physicians will also be working on other local priorities such as assess and restore programs for frail elderly and other patients.

Dr. Fera works as a full time primary care provider both at his practice and in hospital, with ties to many aspects of primary care in the community. He is the CEO and Chair of the Algoma District Medical Group, the Medical Director of the Algoma Diabetes Education Care Centre, and was recently appointed Chair of the Health Link. Dr. Fera has also served on the Board of the Children’s Rehab Centre, worked as a Team Physician for the Sault Greyhounds, and Physician Lead for St. John’s Ambulance.

“I look forward to working with other physicians and other health service providers to improve patient care in Algoma,” said Dr. Fera.

Dr. Stewart has been a family physician with the Algoma District Medical Group, offering inpatient and outpatient care, for almost a decade and prior to this was an emergency room physician at the Sault Area Hospital. She is the VP of Medical Affairs for the Group Health Centre, has served on the Board of Directors of the medical group, taught as



**Dr. David Fera**



**Dr. Jodie Stewart**

an Associate Professor with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and has participated in several hospital and community medical committees.

“At this time, the greatest needs are to facilitate communication, integration and coordination between the health care partners of the Algoma district,” Dr. Stewart said. “I look forward to working with the North East LHIN to bring people together.”

**FACTS:**

- Increasing primary care coordination is one of four priorities in the NE LHIN’s strategic plan.
- The North East LHIN has health care leads who work with the LHIN on dedicated files, including:
  - Dr. Gary Bota, Emergency Department Lead
  - Dr. Derek Manchuk , Critical Care Lead
  - Dr. Boji Varghese, Endocrinologist Lead for Diabetes
  - Barbara Kiely, NP - Primary Care Lead for Diabetes/Chronic Disease Management
  - Dr. Paul Preston, Primary Care Lead for the North East LHIN and also supporting work in the Nipissing-Temiskaming Hub
  - Dr. Yves Raymond, Primary Care Lead for the Cochrane Hub
  - Dr. Reena Dhatt, Primary Care Lead for the Sudbury-Manitoulin-Parry Sound Hub
- In Northeastern Ontario, primary care providers, include:
  - 1 Group Health Centre in Sault Ste. Marie (34 family physicians)
  - 27 Family Health Teams
  - 6 Community Health Centres
  - 6 Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics
  - 16 Nursing Stations
  - 219 NPs working in North East ( primary care, pediatrics, adult, anesthesia)
  - 330+ family physicians providing comprehensive primary care in North East
  - 3 Aboriginal Health Access Centres
- There are currently two Health Links up and running in the North East LHIN region – one in Temiskaming and the other in Timmins. Three additional Health Links have been approved and are under development - Sault Ste. Marie, Nipissing, and North Cochrane.

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