



Health Sciences North  
Horizon Santé-Nord

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For Immediate Release

### **Early Success for New Addictions Treatment Clinic at HSN**

**SUDBURY, ON** – A new treatment clinic at Health Sciences North (HSN) is proving successful in helping people deal with addictions.

The Rapid Access Addictions Medicine (RAAM) Clinic was launched last December at HSN's Withdrawal Management Service.

At the RAAM clinic, people dealing with addictions such as alcohol and opioids receive early, assertive treatment to help manage cravings and withdrawal symptoms. So far, there have been 25 visits by 14 patients to the clinic. The Clinic is led by Withdrawal Management staff and Dr. Mike Franklyn, a Sudbury physician with expertise in addictions treatment.

In its first 90 days, for people using the RAAM clinic, there has been a 63 per cent decrease in Emergency Department visits, an 80 per cent decrease in days spent in hospital, and a 97 per cent decrease in days spent at the Withdrawal Management Service, for an estimated savings of over \$70,000 to the health care system

"Early and assertive intervention and treatment is absolutely essential to helping people better manage or overcome their addictions, and the new RAAM clinic has exceeded our expectations," says Maureen McLelland, HSN's Associate Vice-President for Clinical Transformations and HSN's Lead on the RAAM project.

"The clients who are using the RAAM clinic are telling me that the clinic is definitely having a positive impact on their lives," adds Catherine Watson, Clinical Manager of HSN's Withdrawal Management Service. "Clients who are taking part in this early intervention program are also more likely to take part in longer-term treatment programs, so we're very excited about the results so far."

HSN is one of 7 hospitals in Ontario to launch a Rapid Access Addictions Medicine Clinic as part of the Mentorship, Education, and Training in Addictions: Primary Care-Hospital Integration (META:PHI) project. The province-wide META:PHI project is part of the Adopting Research to Improve Care (ARTIC) Program, co-led by Health Quality Ontario and the Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario (CAHO).

"The ARTIC Program has the right implementation tools and infrastructure to accelerate the spread of proven research evidence into broader practice," says Karen Michell, Executive Director of CAHO. "Health Quality Ontario and CAHO are pleased that the META:PHI project is having a meaningful impact on the lives of people facing addictions in Sudbury, and across Ontario."

“We’re pleased to be partnering with Health Sciences North as part of the ARTIC Program,” says Dr. Joshua Tepper, President and CEO of Health Quality Ontario. “Timely access to addictions treatment services is a critical priority and essential to helping a patient population that is often hard to reach.”

The North East LHIN has also provided some one-time start-up funding for the RAAM Clinic’s equipment, renovations and secretarial supports.

“We invested in the RAAM Clinic because it showed great promise in increasing access to quality services for people with addictions. As health system planners the North East LHIN is pleased to see these early results which are already benefitting Northerners. We will continue to monitor results which will help to determine a potential roll out to other Northeastern Ontario communities,” adds Louise Paquette, CEO of the North East LHIN.

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*Health Sciences North is improving the health of northerners by working with our partners to advance quality care, education, research and health promotion. HSN is grateful for the ongoing support of the community through the HSN Foundation, the Northern Cancer Foundation, the NEO Kids Foundation and the HSN Volunteer Association.*

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