

MEDIA RELEASE

North East LHIN Provides More Support to Complex Patients in Espanola and Area

February 15, 2018 – For Jane*, an elderly Espanola woman with a history of violent outbursts, finding a long-term care home was difficult. But thanks to care provided by a behavioural supports team, she has settled into a long-term care home, where staff are now able to better manage her care, and she is able to experience a good quality of life in a safe environment.

The North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) is helping Jane and other complex and at-risk patients in Espanola and area, by supporting the Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre in its work to prevent patients from being unnecessarily admitted or readmitted to hospital.

“We don’t want to see patients who have complex medical conditions struggle to access the care they need or understand their plan of care,” said Jeremy Stevenson, North East LHIN CEO. “The North East LHIN aims to provide seniors with the care they need to live in community for as long as possible and we are pleased to support all efforts to try to reduce trips to the emergency department and unnecessary hospital admissions.”



BSO Clinician, Jennifer Savicky and Resident, Shirley MacDonald pose for a photo in Espanola Nursing Home.

The North East LHIN is helping to ensure that patients who have been identified as requiring intensive community supports – are able to remain in the community, living in a safe and supportive environment. It is supporting an Admission Avoidance Nurse at Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre who will develop Complex Care Plans for these patients.

The North East LHIN is also supporting a Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) Clinician who will work in Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre to reduce patient transfers from long-term care to an acute or specialized unit for behaviours. This will reduce the length of stay for people in hospital who can be discharged to a long-term care home with enhanced behavioural resources.

“On behalf of our patients and community I am extremely pleased to be receiving permanent funding to support this invaluable service,” said Nicole Haley, CEO, Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre. “BSO services enhance the quality of life for those suffering from dementia, supporting families and caregivers.”

FACTS:

- The North East LHIN is investing \$65,000 to support an Admission Avoidance Nurse.
- The North East LHIN is investing \$138,000 to support a Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) Clinician.
- The investments deliver patient care in response to the distinct local needs in the North East LHIN. The NE LHIN harnesses its local expertise and engagement with patients and local partners to plan, coordinate and deliver health care.
- Ontario is increasing access to care, reducing wait times and improving the patient experience through its [Patients First Action Plan for Health Care](#) and [OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare Program](#) - protecting health care today and into the future.
- The Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre is a 79-bed facility that serves a population of about 15,000. Every year, the NE LHIN provides more than \$11 million to the hospital to deliver health care services.
- Espanola Nursing Home is a 62 bed home attached to the hospital.

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**Patient identity anonymized*