

MEDIA RELEASE

North East LHIN Works with Health Sciences North to Help Young Patients Live Healthy and Well

January 5, 2018 -- Charlie is a child who lives in a rural community in Northeastern Ontario. She requires nursing, personal support, and other services to meet her needs and ensure that she is able to remain at home with her family.

Charlie is one of thousands of youth living in Northeastern Ontario who have poor health, and require specialty care to manage it.

The North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) provides nursing, personal support, and therapy care to pediatric patients in their homes, at nursing clinics, and in schools. In order to better serve the needs of young folks across the region, the North East LHIN has also been working with NEOKids at Health Sciences North (HSN).

Eryn Agnihotri is a Rapid Response Nurse at the North East LHIN. She provides care to children with complex medical needs and supports kids and their parents as they transition from hospital to home. She recently spent two weeks in the in-patient pediatric unit at HSN, where she practiced her assessment and clinical skills to advance her training in caring for young patients.

“We know that there are more children in the Northeast living with asthma, autism, cancer, and mental illness,” said Kate Fyfe, Interim CEO, North East LHIN. “We also know, it’s not always easy for them to access the care they need and we are pleased to collaborate with HSN to enhance the skills of our health care professionals and better support pediatric patients in the Northeast.”



Eryn Agnihotri, Rapid Response Nurse, North East LHIN practices her pediatric assessment and clinical skills.

“Having Erin as part of our team provided her the opportunity to meet many of our team members and key staff,” said Kim Warren, Administrative Director, NEO Kids & Family and Inter-Professional Practice. “It was a shared learning experience for both teams, to further increase knowledge of the LHIN Pediatric outreach nursing role, as well as our NICU/Pediatric responsibilities at HSN.”

Agnihotri will take what she’s learned from the pediatricians, nurses, therapists, social workers, and other specialists at the hospital, and share it with her team at the North East LHIN. This collaborative work helps to provide the best possible care to children like Charlie in the North East.

“The opportunity to use Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) to have follow-up appointments with the pediatrician ensures that our daughter is able to remain at home with us,” said Charlie’s mom. “Having to go out could cause our daughter to be hospitalized. Our Care Coordinator has been able to ensure that we are able to use available technology to keep our daughter stable in her environment and our family intact.”

The North East LHIN has also recruited a Pediatric Medical Advisor, who will provide his expertise to health care workers regarding care, program development, and education.

FACTS:

- The North East LHIN has 13 Rapid Response Nurses. They are located in Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Timmins, Elliot Lake, and Parry Sound.
- People are typically referred to a rapid response nurse when discharged from hospital, to help with the transition from hospital to home.
- Rapid Response Nurses can also be accessed from the community, through referral from a primary care provider.
- On average, children and youth in Northeastern Ontario have poorer rates of health compared to the rest of Ontario and Canada. Children in the northeast have higher rates of allergies, asthma, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), autism, diabetes, cancer, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), mental illness and self-harm.
- Demand for pediatric services is expected to grow by up to 40 per cent over the next ten years.
- For more information about services for pediatric patients, contact the North East LHIN at 310-2222.

Contact:

Lara Bradley, Communications Officer, North East LHIN, 705-674-1492,
lara.bradley@lhins.on.ca