

MEDIA RELEASE

Your Region, Your Health Care, Your Voice – Your Plan!

North East LHIN's three-year health plan reflects the input of close to 4,000 Northerners

February 7, 2013 – Patient-centred care is the primary focus of the new three-year health care plan for Northeastern Ontario released today by the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN).

The NE LHIN's *Integrated Health Service Plan* outlines regional priorities for health care between 2013 and 2016, along with goals and actions for achieving them.

“We asked fellow Northerners for their ideas on how to make health care in this part of the province more patient-centred and close to 4,000 people responded,” said Louise Paquette, CEO of the NE LHIN. “Northern voices are the bedrock of our three-year health plan.”

“The NE LHIN is grateful that our region’s care providers and community members enthusiastically participated in developing this plan,” said Elaine Pitcher, Chair of the Board of Directors, NE LHIN. “We are now asking health service providers to ensure their individual strategic plans align with this regional health care plan.”

The plan outlines four main priorities to build a more patient-centred system of care across the region that is sensitive to the needs of older adults, including:

- Increase primary care coordination;
- Enhance care coordination and transitions to improve the patient experience;
- Make mental health and substance abuse treatment services more accessible;
- Target the needs of culturally diverse population groups, including Francophones and Aboriginal/First Nation/Métis people

Priorities will be supported by increasing electronic health record opportunities, realignment and system transformation efforts, and a more coordinated approach to the recruitment and retention of health care professionals.

FACTS

- The NE LHIN has 185 Accountability Agreements which hold health care service providers accountable to deliver \$1.4 billion in front-line health care each year.
- The NE LHIN represents over 40% of the province’s land area and is home to 551,000 people.
- About 22% of the people living in the NE LHIN region are Francophone and close to 10% are Aboriginal/First Nation/Métis.

- The NE LHIN has 538 Family Physicians, one Group Health Centre in Sault Ste. Marie (34 family physicians), 27 Family Health Teams, six Community Health Centres, six Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics, 16 Nursing Stations and three Aboriginal Health Centres.
- Both male and female NE LHIN residents have a shorter life expectancy than residents of Ontario: 76.5 years for males (79.2 years in Ontario), and 81.4 years for females (83.6 in Ontario).
- The NE LHIN population is projected to change dramatically over the next 25 years The estimated number of seniors (65+) is projected to increase by 72%, from just over 100,000 to over 172,000 by 2036(note the provincial average is expected to increase by about 67%). This significant demographic shift has major implications on the delivery of health care and the type and location of services delivered.
- Overall, compared to the province, the North East LHIN region has a higher percentage of people who smoke, drink, are obese, have high blood pressure, and live with multiple chronic conditions.
- Copies of the plan are available online [here](#) or for a hard copy call **1-866-906-5446**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Download: The plan [here](#)

Backgrounder: See summary of Integrated Health Service Plan on next page.

North East LHIN IHSP Summary, 2013 – 2016

Ontario's Action Plan For Health Care

Keeping Ontario
Healthy

Faster Access and a
Stronger Link to Family
Health Care

Right Care, Right
Time, Right Place

LHIN System Imperatives

Enhance Access to
Primary Care

Enhance Coordination &
Transitions of Care for
Targeted Populations

Implement Evidence
Based Practice to
Drive Quality and
Safety

Holding the Gains

North East LHIN Priorities

Increase
Primary Care
Coordination

Enhance Care
Coordination
and Transitions
to Improve the
Patient
Experience

Make Mental
Health and
Substance
Abuse
Treatment
Services More
Accessible

Target the
Needs of
Culturally
Diverse
Population
Groups

By 2016, the North East LHIN will:

Improve access to
high quality primary
care for Northerners

Improve access and
quality through
greater service
coordination

Improve access and
system navigation for
consumers and
their families

Enhance access to
health care services
that are linguistically
and culturally
appropriate

Increase the
integration of primary
care within the
broader continuum of
care

Improve client
transitions between
service providers
along the continuum
of care

Increase community
capacity to provide
more care options for
Northerners while
decreasing acute
sector pressures

Increase system
navigation, service
coordination and
access to care

Engage and
collaborate with
primary care
providers to better
support the patient
journey

Enhance targeted
service capacity
where required

Enhance care
supports for people
with complex issues
through increased
collaboration

Increase access to
mental health and
substance abuse
services