

Care Connections – Partnering for Healthy Communities

North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN Launches Local Health System / Information Technology Project

Date: March 31, 2010
NSM2010-03-31

COLLINGWOOD, ON – We're off and running! Today, with videoconference launch sites in the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network's (LHIN) five geographic regions, the LHIN formally kicked off the long-awaited **Care Connections** project. **Care Connections** is made up of two components – the future health system design for North Simcoe Muskoka and the information and communications technology that will assist in making this design a reality.

North Simcoe Muskoka

Care Connections

Partnering for Healthy Communities

The LHIN has heard repeatedly that residents of North Simcoe Muskoka are unsure of where they can access a particular health care service or resource. The North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN wants to create a better health care system, one that sees the health of our local residents

improve, ensures individuals receive care in the most appropriate place in a timely manner and takes into account financial uncertainties the province, region and individuals face going forward.

Through the LHIN Leadership Council, comprised of senior staff members from all health care sectors across North Simcoe Muskoka (hospitals, mental health, long-term care, public health, primary care, community support, municipalities, chiefs of staff), as well as representatives from our Aboriginal and francophone populations, the LHIN will design a health system covering all aspects of an individual's life journey from wellness to illness to rehabilitative to supportive care.

Improved health care and health status of our population affects all of us at some point in our lives, whether you provide the service or receive it. The overall objective is better health, better care, and better value. By implementing a comprehensive plan, we help achieve sustainability for our health care system for current and future generations.

In early April, LHIN staff will begin a comprehensive community engagement exercise - holding focus groups, symposiums, education sessions, webinars and other events asking health service providers and residents to relay their experiences with the current system and contribute to discussions on how we can improve it.

QUOTES

"After setting the stage over the past few years, the LHIN and our health service providers are ready to define the direction for health services in North Simcoe Muskoka", stated Ruben Rosen, NSM LHIN Board Chair. "In the course of our journey, we look forward to engaging members of the North Simcoe Muskoka community in this significant initiative which will result in improved and sustainable health care for all."

“In order to meet the needs of the communities served by our hospital, collaborative work with all our health care partners is required to develop an integrated and coordinated system of care”, stated Robert Morton, Chair, Georgian Bay General Hospital. “The new design, along with information technology platforms, will be the tools to develop an integrated health care system that all consumers need.”

“The work that has been done to develop a LHIN-wide program for Complex Continuing Care is an excellent example of how we can re-design our services to better meet the needs of our patients”, commented Dr. Donald Atkinson, Chief of Staff, Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital.

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it. Care Connections will take us one step closer to achieving this important goal,” notes Bernie Blais, NSM LHIN Chief Executive Officer.

QUICK FACTS

- 20 years ago, 32 cents of every dollar spent on government programs was spent on health care. Today, it is 46 cents. In twelve years, it could be 70 cents.
- The North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN oversees approximately \$700 million of health services in our health region.
- As one of 14 LHINs across Ontario, the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN plans, integrates and funds local health services, including hospitals, community care access centres, community health centres, long-term care homes, mental health and addiction programs and a variety of community support services agencies. The LHINs oversee half of the \$46 billion health care budget in Ontario.

LEARN MORE

Read more about [Care Connections](#)

Learn about the activities of the [North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN Leadership Council](#)

For further information on the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN and the ICT/eHealth Framework Project, visit www.nsmhlin.on.ca .

Susan French, Communications Coordinator
North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN, 705-326-7750 x234
susan.french@lhins.on.ca

[NSM LHIN Newsroom](#)
Disponible en français