

Executive Report

March 7, 2007

Report from the OHA

Bill 124, *Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006* Becomes Law

On March 1, 2007, the government proclaimed the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006* into force, making it a recognized law in Ontario. The purpose of the Act is to ensure regulated health professions and individuals applying for registration with regulated health professions in Ontario are governed by transparent, objective, impartial, and fair registration practices.

Under the legislation, the Lieutenant Governor in Council must appoint a Fair Registration Practices Commissioner to assess the registration practices of regulated health professions. The Act also indicates that an Access Centre for internationally trained individuals must be established, where applicants (or potential applicants) can go for information and receive assistance when applying for registration to a professional college. Further, the Act requires all regulated health professions to undergo audits every three years to review their registration practices and to submit annual registration practices reports to the Fairness Commissioner.

A copy of the legislation can be found at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

For further information, contact Melissa Radolli at mradolli@oha.com or 416-205-1322.

Public Sector Salary Disclosure Deadline Approaches

Hospitals with employees paid \$100,000 or more in 2006 are required to submit a complete "Record of Employees' 2006 Salaries and Benefits" to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) by March 12, 2007.

The Government of Ontario will release its Public Sector Salary Disclosure (PSSD) or "Sunshine List," a list of individuals working in the public and broader public sectors who earn more than \$100,000 per year, on April 1, 2007.

Additional information about hospitals' requirements with respect to PSSD is available at: <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/publications/salarydisclosure/>.

For further information, contact Chris McPherson at cmcpherson@oha.com or 416-205-1305.

Patient Safety Support Service Website Update

The Ontario Hospital Association's (OHA) Patient Safety Support Service has updated the literature section of its website and invites you to log on. Links include an article by Alan J. Forster et al. on the prospective evaluation of adverse events following emergency department visits in an Ottawa hospital and a recent article describing the implications of communication issues between physicians at hospital discharge.

As a reminder, the website contains over 150 tools and resources and over 200 literature links. For more information, visit www.oha.com "Programs - "Patient Safety Support Service."

For further information, contact Sarena Weil at sweil@oha.com or 416-205-1439.

Report on Health Care

Highly Specialized Cancer Surgery Now Available

William Osler Health Centre has begun offering a technologically advanced form of surgery for Toronto area patients who have operable esophageal cancer. The procedure, known as minimally invasive esophagectomy (MIE), results in much less post-operative pain for patients than conventional esophageal surgery.

Currently, the primary way to treat cancer of the esophagus, if the disease has not spread, is through traditional open esophagectomy. This involves removing cancerous parts of the esophagus via two or three incisions in the abdomen, chest and sometimes neck. This type of surgery has a relatively high morbidity and mortality rate and involves a lengthy recovery period with significant pain and discomfort. With MIE, a total of eight incisions are necessary, but these are very small, and the surgery does not require cutting through any major muscles. In addition to less post-operative pain, there is also less risk of damage to muscle/tissue or vocal chords, and the recovery period is quicker. Since MIE is technically very demanding, only a few centres in the world perform it. Thoracic Surgeons at Osler believe that the addition of MIE to the range of surgical services available at the health centre will provide many patients in the Greater Toronto Area with a new option for treatment of esophageal cancer.

CKHA and WRH Introduce New Tools to Advance Patient Safety

The Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (CKHA) and Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH) have launched QUEST for eCare, a joint initiative designed to enhance Quality, Utilization, Efficiency, Safety and Technology, to ultimately benefit patient care. CKHA and WRH will implement a computerized physician order entry (CPOE) and clinical decision support (CDS) system across both facilities to electronically assist 450 physicians in making the best patient care decisions.

The use of technology will not only improve the accuracy of entering medication and other patient care orders, but will also provide clinical guidance and best practices on how to treat hundreds of medical conditions. The system will be integrated

with a pharmacy information system so the patient's most current medication and allergy information is available to all clinicians, further reducing the risk of medication errors.

Cataract High Volume and Total Joint Assessment Centres Celebrated

New partnerships among some Ontario hospitals have created innovative solutions to wait times for hip and knee replacement and cataract surgeries. Both the Total Joint Assessment Centre (TJAC) and the Cataract High Volume Centre (CHVC), located at North York General Hospital's Branson site, are new models of care delivery, which evolved through collaborations among four hospitals to reduce wait times and improve outcomes.



The CHVC, a partnership of Markham Stouffville, North York General and Humber River Regional Hospitals, is improving the vision of thousands of people needing cataract surgery.

The TJAC is one of the first of its kind in Ontario, where the first assessment of a patient is provided by an interdisciplinary team specializing in musculoskeletal health. As a partnership between Markham Stouffville, North York General and York Central Hospitals, it will allow orthopaedic surgeons to spend more time in the operating room and decrease surgical wait times for total hip and knee joint replacement.

Report from Queen's Park

Tabling of Provincial and Federal Budgets Announced

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has announced that the Federal Budget will be presented in Canada's House of Commons at approximately 4:00 p.m. on March 19, 2007. Information is available at www.fin.gc.ca. Following the presentation of the Federal Budget, Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sorbara will present the 2007 Ontario Budget in the provincial legislature at approximately 4:00 p.m. on March 22, 2007. This will be the McGuinty government's fourth budget, and the final Ontario Budget before the October 10, 2007 provincial election.

Copies of the Ontario Budget speech and technical papers will be available for download from the Ministry of Finance website (www.fin.gov.on.ca) and the Publications Ontario website (www.publications.gov.on.ca) shortly after the Minister's speech.

The OHA plans to attend the Ontario budget lockup and comment publicly on the budget's contents on March 22. In addition, the OHA will provide Members with analyses of both budgets, as well as key messages and other materials, for use in discussions with the public and local media. For further information, contact Chris McPherson at cmcpherson@oha.com or 416-205-1305.

Investigator's Report Released

On March 6, 2007, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care George Smitherman released the *Waterloo Hospitals Emergency Services Investigator's Report*, to the public. The report, developed under the leadership of Tom Closson, is available on the Ministry's website at www.health.gov.on.ca.

Earlier this year, Mr. Closson, former President and CEO of the University Health Network, was appointed as an investigator under the *Public Hospitals Act*, to review the

delivery of emergency services at hospitals across Waterloo Region. Mr. Closson investigated and reported on the emergency services system and medical coverage at Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Grand River Hospital and St. Mary's General Hospital. He also developed, in collaboration with the hospitals, a plan for a comprehensive emergency service system improvement.

New Email Addresses Adopted within Ontario Public Sector

Until recently, employees within the Ontario Public Sector had email addresses that followed a ministry-specific format (for example, lastname@ministrycode.gov.on.ca). The government has now moved to a new standard email address, following the format: firstname.lastname@ontario.ca.

The advantages of the government's new consolidated e-mail service include reduced overall operating costs, increased simplicity and efficiency, and added functionality within the sector.

The migration to the standard e-mail address is happening on a cluster-by-cluster basis. Some government staff are already using their new e-mail addresses, while others will be changing shortly. Precautions have been put in place to ensure old email addresses will still work through the phased-in approach.

Moving to the new standard e-mail address is part of the government's overall modernization program, and aligns with the re-branding of government web sites.



OHA Conferences

Essentials of Project Management - Making Projects Happen Successfully!

March 29, 2007

Canadian Management Centre
150 York St., Toronto

With the introduction of many changes to the hospital sector in Ontario, including Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), Hospital Annual Planning Submission (HAPS), Hospital Accountability Agreements (HAAs), preparing for public health contingencies, and coping with constrained resources, challenging times are upon us. Hospital staff need to get things done right and to the satisfaction of all stakeholders, not to mention getting them done on time and on budget. The OHA, in conjunction with Canadian Management Centre, is pleased to offer an intensive one-day workshop that will navigate through Harvard ManageMentor® Plus - the online learning resource - and provide project management essentials, in an interactive and participatory session. Registration includes a one-year subscription to Harvard ManageMentor® PLUS at no additional cost (a \$335 value). For further information, contact Rebecca Moonah at rmoonah@oha.com or 416-205-1355.

Emergency Preparedness: Responding to CBRN Incidents - March 29 - 30, 2007 Metro Toronto Convention Centre (North Building), 255 Front St. W., Toronto

The OHA presents the following pre-conference workshop and conference as part of its Emergency Preparedness series. The sessions will provide attendees with a forum to learn about leading practices in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) planning and response from local and international leaders.

Pre-Conference Workshop, March 29, 2007

Attendees have the opportunity to attend a half-day pre-conference workshop to participate in an Emergency Operations Centre table-top exercise and a CBRN decontamination simulation.

Attendance for this pre-conference workshop is limited and early registration is recommended.

Conference, March 30, 2007

Ontario hospitals play a central role in responding to the health impacts of CBRN incidents, whether they are natural or deliberate in nature. As part of the MOHLTC Emergency

Preparedness agenda, all Ontario hospitals that provide emergency/urgent care have received CBRN supplies and equipment and should be in the process of completing their operational level training. The principles of the program include ensuring provincial standardization, inter/intra-operability, and consistent training across facilities. For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at sbyckmunday@oha.com or 416-205-1357.

Culture of Safety in Health Care North West Sub-Region Conference, April 11-13, 2007, Thunder Bay

North East/North Central Sub-Region Conference, April 25 - 27, 2007, North Bay

Issues such as SARS and pandemic influenza have moved patient safety to the forefront of today's health care organizations. Leadership in developing, promoting, implementing and evaluating safety components is essential for delivering effective patient care. Organizations must have established safety programs and procedures not only to recruit and retain staff, but also to be leaders in the health care sector. This year's program has been designed to explore the culture of safety that exists in health care today, and ways in which organizations can improve and move forward. Topics will include staff safety, patient safety, trustee and governance issues, accreditation, the evaluation of senior executives, labour relations best practices, respect and safety in the workplace, and a LHINs update. For further information, contact Joanne Grzywna at jgrzywna@oha.com or 416-205-1341.

Conference for Board Finance Committee Members - April 26, 2007 Renaissance Toronto Hotel Downtown, 1 Blue Jays Way, Toronto

This annual event is designed for finance committee members of Ontario's health care boards of directors and will provide them with strategies for planning more effectively and dealing with issues that directly impact their scope of responsibilities. This year's conference will feature two concurrent sessions - one on Hospital Strategic Plans and the other on Small Hospital Issues. With Minister of Public Infrastructure and Deputy Government House Leader, David Caplan, invited to provide an update on key capital renewal projects and an impressive agenda of

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OHA Conferences (continued)

pertinent topics, it will be a productive, highly relevant conference. **Deirdre McMurdy**, one of Canada's leading business journalists, will also join us for an afternoon keynote session. For more information, contact **Josie Mazzola** at jmazzola@oha.com or 416-205-1356.

Energy Monitoring, Targeting and Reporting: A New Way of Managing Health Care
April 26, 2007 (Full Day) & April 27, 2007 (Morning only) - Ontario Hospital Association,
200 Front St. W., Toronto

The OHA, in conjunction with Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas, is pleased to present a new, enhanced version of the *Energy Monitoring, Targeting and Reporting: A New Way of Managing Health Care (MT&R)* conference. MT&R is a powerful technique for managing the consumption of energy downward. It involves ongoing analysis of energy use in view of the key consumption drivers, such as weather and activity indicators, and is the basis for integrating energy efficiency into an organization's management structure. In this interactive, hands-on workshop, delegates will gain a working knowledge of the principles, analytic methods and practical skills needed to implement MT&R in an organization. After the workshop, delegates will be able to make reasoned choices about commercial energy management tools available in today's market. For more information, contact **Marisa Bavaro** at mbavaro@oha.com or 416-205-1309.

Conference for Administrative Professionals
April 26 - 27, 2007
Radisson Admiral Hotel
Toronto Harbourfront
249 Queen's Quay W., Toronto

Register today for what has come to be known as the conference of choice for administrative professionals in the health care industry. The conference will begin with a full day of sessions that will provide valuable updates and interesting hands-on activities. A second half-day session will focus on the power of communication and how to be more effective when talking with others.

Do not miss this opportunity to sharpen skills and develop valuable technical, management and communication skills through expert-run sessions. Delegates may also join in the fun at the networking reception on April 26. For further information, contact **Shannon Byck Munday** at sbyckmunday@oha.com or 416-205-1357.

Managing Human Resources Course
May 7 - 9, 2007
Ontario Hospital Association,
200 Front St. W., Toronto

Hospital leaders understand that in today's competitive labour market, maximizing human capital is essential to achieving optimal patient care outcomes. This program is aimed at strengthening the leadership capacity and management competencies for those involved in hospital human resources management. This program will provide tools and resources to managers in the areas of recruitment and retention, change management, organizational effectiveness, employee/labour relations, and the creation of healthy and productive work environments. For further information, contact **Marisa Bavaro** at mbavaro@oha.com or 416-205-1309.

Rural and Northern Hospitals Annual Conference: Hot Topics in Rural and Northern Health Care
May 24 - 25, 2007 - Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville, 90 Bloor St. E., Toronto

New challenges and opportunities are emerging for health care providers who are tasked with improving the health of people living in northern and rural communities. As the province's 14 new LHINs assume funding responsibility, new models for addressing hospital cost structures are being considered. Issues to be addressed at this conference include: future trends in health care and the implications for rural and northern hospitals, the future of primary care, leading practices in rural health care training, effective governance, a financial update on LHINs, and emergency preparedness for rural and northern hospitals. For further information, contact **Brian Shields** at bshields@oha.com or 416-205-1455.



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