

Executive Report

March 19, 2008

Report from the OHA

OHA's March 2008 ALC Survey Due Next Week

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) is requesting that all hospitals complete a survey before the end of March as part of the series related to the alternate-level-of-care (ALC) issue facing Ontario hospitals. The purpose is to collect timely information on the challenges arising from ALC patients, to provide the OHA with accurate evidence for ongoing discussions with the government about urgent solutions, and to assess the impact of proposed solutions already underway. The OHA will continue to share the aggregate data as it is collected with hospitals and Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs).

Please note that the OHA is also monitoring the use of post-acute beds for ALC patients and encourages all complex continuing care, rehabilitation and mental health facilities to respond and provide information on the number of patients waiting for ALC.

Your input is critical in helping the OHA monitor the ALC issue. Please complete the survey by no later than 4:00 pm on **Friday, March 28, 2008**, using your hospital's most recent available information to answer the questions.

For further information, contact Andrea Wong at 416-205-1444 or awong@oha.com.

Just Clean Your Hands Training for Hospitals

The OHA is partnering with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to deliver train-the-trainer sessions across the province on the program, commencing March 25, 2008. To view the complete list of training sessions and to register up to three people per hospital, visit www.oha.com/justcleanyourhands.

During the *Just Clean Your Hands* training sessions, hospital teams will explore how the *Just Clean Your Hands* program can be used to implement a hand hygiene program in their own hospital or how elements of the program can be used to enhance their existing hand hygiene campaigns. It is strongly recommended that a multi-disciplinary group attend the training session. Hospitals should send resources that will be able to cover the roles of trainer, implementation coordinator and auditor.

Participants will then champion the *Just Clean Your Hands Program* in their hospitals. Training of front-line health care providers on "when and how" to perform hand hygiene will be conducted by these training participants in their local settings.

For further information about the training sessions, contact Karen Sequeira at 416-205-1328 or ksequeira@oha.com.

Report on Health Care

HHS Champions Organ and Tissue Donation

Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) received the inaugural *Award of Excellence* from Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) at an awards ceremony held on March 5, 2008. Patti Leonard, Director of Neuroscience and Trauma at HHS, was recognized with the *Donation Champion* award.

TGLN honoured HHS and Ms. Leonard for advancing organ and tissue donation by developing best practices, resulting in an enhanced hospital culture that promotes donation at every opportunity. The keys to success include the integration of donation into standard end-of-life care in critical care units; identifying needs of families and staff in ensuring a seamless process; establishing an improved referral, approach and conversion rate; building partnerships and recruiting multidisciplinary champions; and holding formal staff debriefing sessions. HHS has also developed end-of-life rituals for family and staff and a “Donation after Cardiac Death” policy. In 2007, HHS set the provincial record and is currently leading the province with the highest number of multiple organ donations in one year.

Robotic-Assisted Radical Hysterectomy a Canadian First

London surgeons have become the first in Canada to perform a robotic-assisted radical hysterectomy, a breakthrough surgical accomplishment that dramatically reduces recovery time, pain and complications for women who require the surgery. The procedure was performed at St. Joseph’s Health Care, London, with a team of London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) gynecologists using a da Vinci Surgical System. This is the first time a surgical robot was used in gynecological surgery in Canada.

The robot provides a three-dimensional (3D) view of the surgical field and full maneuverability of the instruments by joystick controls, allowing surgeons to perform actions difficult or impossible by hand. This minimally invasive surgery requires only a two-day stay in hospital, with a full recovery complete within two weeks. While still in the development stage, this new achievement should allow more surgeons to perform laparoscopic operations and offer this option to more patients in the near future. To date, five patients have undergone the procedure.

Paediatric Child Life Services Recognized

During the week of March 17-23, 2008, Windsor Regional Hospital’s Paediatric Child Life Specialists will recognize Child Life Month by setting-up an information kiosk and by providing an update on initiatives assisting children in care.

Child Life Specialists are non-medical members of the health care team who provide therapeutic play and preparation for surgery and tests, working with patients in an individual or group setting. Medical interaction and play are the most frequently used techniques to prepare a child for anticipated procedures such as tests and surgery. For further information, visit www.wrh.on.ca, under “Programs and Services - Paediatric Services.”

Drug Information System Expands at MHA

A recent initiative that electronically accesses a patient’s electronic prescription drug history is expanding in scope at both sites of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA). The system, known as the Drug Profile Viewer (DPV) System - an initiative of the MOHLTC in collaboration with Canada Health Infoway (Infoway) - provides the secure sharing of prescription drug claim histories of Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) recipients and those using the Trillium Drug Program with health care providers, such as MHA. The access is immediate and available 24/7.

Initially, the system was successfully implemented in emergency departments only at pilot site hospitals - including MHA - beginning in November 2006. The MOHLTC is now expanding the availability of this system for other health care providers, beginning with 19 “first-wave” sites, including MHA. This means that physicians will be able to retrieve the same drug information about their ODB patients admitted to the hospital, not just emergency room visits. Eventually, all health care providers will have access to ODB recipients’ history.

Executive Announcements

This March, **Bruce G. Pollock, MD, PhD, FRCPC**, will become the President of the 2,000-member American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP). He is the newly-appointed Vice President of Research at the Centre for

Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto.

On March 13, 2008, Canada Health Infoway announced the appointment of **Dr. Jim Maclean** as Vice President, Innovation and Adoption. He will work with

clinicians during the national transition to electronic health records.

Elisabeth J. Riley is Soldiers' Memorial Hospital's incoming President and CEO, effective April 14, 2008.

Matt Anderson was recently appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Central Toronto LHIN. Mr. Anderson was formerly Senior Vice President of Performance and Technology at the University Health Network (UHN).

Report from Queen's Park

MOHLTC Announces 2007 Nursing Research Fund Award Winners

The Nursing Secretariat and Research Unit of the MOHLTC recently announced the awardees of the *2007 Nursing Research Fund (NRF) Open Competition*, which was launched in October 2007. An external, impartial academic and relevance review panel, comprised of both academics and leaders in the nursing sector, met in February 2008 to review all applications and provide their recommendations to the ministry. Nineteen proposals were received and nine were awarded.

Proposals were awarded based on their scientific merit and their alignment with specific ministry-identified priorities and themes. The degree to which the projects would facilitate collaboration among nursing researchers and decision-makers was also a key factor in the decision-making process.

The NRF provides funding for research that focuses on the management, organization and effectiveness of nursing human resources and services. This research supports the development of policy and programs that are designed to address key nursing issues such as recruitment, retention, nurse preparation, improvements to work environments, job satisfaction and utilization of the workforce. In addition to seeking research that will support the development of practical policy solutions, the MOHLTC is also interested in conducting formal evaluations of its existing nursing

programs. This allows for refinement of the initiatives to ensure the government is able to meet the objectives of HealthForceOntario (HFO). For a full list of awarded projects, visit www.health.gov.on.ca, under "What's New."

Ontario Battles Colon Cancer in New Campaign

When caught early through regular screening, there is a 90 percent chance colorectal cancer can be cured. That is the message behind a new public awareness campaign called *ColonCancerCheck* that will educate Ontarians about the importance of early screening and detection.

Starting in April 2008, Ontarians age 50 and over will be able to get a take-home colorectal cancer screening kit, called a Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT), from their health care provider. People who have an increased risk of colorectal cancer because of a family history of the disease and those who have a positive home-screening test will receive a colonoscopy.

The public awareness campaign will help educate health care providers on the importance of screening patients, increase awareness through a television advertising campaign and make information available through a new website.

Patients can visit the website (www.coloncancercheck.ca) or call 1-866-410-5853 for information on how to access FOBT kits.



OHA Conferences

Advancing Safety and Quality Care: Critical Health Care Issues & Strategies

April 16, 17 & 18, 2008
Thunder Bay

This conference will provide an excellent forum for health care leaders and trustees in northern Ontario to network, learn and discuss both the opportunities and challenges facing health care, with a specific focus on the reporting of quality care and patient safety indicators. This conference will address many topics, including e-Health strategies, patient safety and quality, HSMR, the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA)'s new accreditation standards, the evolving role of LHINs, and the Joint Policy and Planning Committee's (JPPC) Core Services Report. A CEO breakfast, trustee and hospital breakout sessions, and section meetings will also provide participants the opportunity to share ideas and experiences. Speakers include

Dr. Michael Baker, Provincial Lead, Patient Safety and Quality, Health System Accountability and Performance Division, MOHLTC and Dr. Andrew McDonald, Chair, MAC Quality of Care Committee, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

For further information, contact Joanne Grzywna at 416-205-1341 or 1-800-598-8002, ext. 1341 or jgrzywna@oha.com

Qmentum: What the New Accreditation Process Means to Your Organization

April 29, 2008
Toronto

Accreditation is an important part of continuous quality improvement and one way to ensure that safe, efficient and reliable care is being delivered. This year, the CCHSA is phasing in a new accreditation program called *Qmentum*. The goals of the new program include streamlining the accreditation process; helping health care organizations focus on quality improvement actions and results; encouraging organizations to use and implement the standards into daily practice; and, increasing the focus of accreditation on care delivery, quality of services and patient safety.

Development work on the new accreditation program began in spring 2005, with pilot testing launched in February 2007. The CCHSA began phasing-in this upgraded program in January 2008 and by 2009, the majority of CCHSA clients will be using new components of this program. Health care organizations that participated in the pilot testing will offer critical insight into

Qmentum, discussing the key pillars of the program in-depth. Delegates will also learn the implications to their organization.

For further information, contact Sara Simone at 416-205-1314 or ssimone@oha.com.

Essentials of Coaching: Making Coaching Happen Successfully!

May 1, 2008
Toronto

Coaching skills are vital to being a successful leader, manager, or professional in the hospital and health care environment. The advent of numerous changes to Ontario's hospital and health care sector, including LHINs, Hospital Service Accountability Agreements (HSAAs), preparing for public health contingencies and constrained resources has brought numerous challenges.

One important component in addressing these challenges is leading a team that operates at optimal capacity. The OHA, in collaboration with the Canadian Management Centre, presents an intensive one-day interactive workshop on the fundamentals of coaching, which will provide an overview of the Harvard ManageMentor® PLUS section on coaching. Harvard ManageMentor® PLUS is a valuable online desktop reference that organizations around the world trust to help boost individual and corporate performance. Offering essential advice, techniques and tips for 41 different key management responsibilities in a point-and-click format, this is a fully functional and easily accessible tool. As part of the registration for this course, participants will also receive a one-year subscription to Harvard ManageMentor® PLUS at no additional cost (a \$335 value).

For further information, contact Rebecca Moonah at 416-205-1355 or rmoonah@oha.com.

Going Green for the Health of It!

May 5, 2008
Toronto

The OHA is pleased to present this one-day conference that will provide participants with a practical overview of ongoing efforts in "going green." This is an opportunity to network with peers and hear from industry leaders as they discuss the successes, challenges and opportunities in "greening health care." Participants will learn

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OHA Conferences (continued)

about environmentally-conscious purchasing and how to get what you really want, as well as listen to practical advice on the importance of having healthy foods in hospitals. A session on innovative green technologies will highlight “biomimicry,” a science that studies nature and attempts to imitate its design to solve human problems. The afternoon sessions will cover best practice case studies from the LHINs, physicians and health care administrators from across North America.

For further information, contact Kerry Vincent at 416-205-1306 or kvincent@oha.com.

Interprofessional Care May 5, 2008 Toronto

Interprofessional care is the provision of comprehensive health services by a team of professionals working together to deliver the best quality care through a multi-disciplinary approach. Growing evidence shows that this approach can lead to improved patient care and more effective use of health care resources, along with other benefits like enhancement of health practitioners’ skills, reduced clinical error, increased provider satisfaction and reduced staff shortages.

The federal, provincial and territorial governments have identified interprofessional care as a priority for health system renewal because it helps address the financial and resource shortages currently facing the system. In June 2006, the MOHLTC and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities created the HFO Interprofessional Care Project to identify the priorities that will facilitate the systemic implementation of interprofessional care.

This conference will provide participants with an opportunity to examine the challenges involved in interprofessional care and identify strategies, possible solutions and proven cases for its successful implementation.

For further information, contact Sara Simone at 416-205-1314 or ssimone@oha.com.

Collaboration - Engaging Stakeholders and Achieving Results May 12 & 13, 2008 Toronto

This two-day course is designed to help participants develop sharper skills and the confidence needed when collaborating with a variety of stakeholders. Case studies will be used to illustrate the challenges and opportunities inherent in partnerships and strategic alliances. Readings will be distributed during the sessions and a selected bibliography will be provided for more detailed exploration.

For further information, contact Marisa Bavaro at 416-205-1309 or mbavaro@oha.com.

Rural and Northern Health Care Annual Conference: Highlighting Excellence in Rural and Northern Health Care May 21, 2008 (social event) May 22 & 23, 2008 Toronto

Northern and rural health care providers face a host of unique challenges and opportunities. While striking the right balance for providing effective and quality care is a province-wide challenge, these providers require a one-of-a-kind approach. This conference will provide updates on the progress of small, rural and northern hospitals and their future agenda. Participants will look at essential tools that help drive success and how progress can be evaluated. Join colleagues at the Rogers Centre on May 21st for a fun-filled Toronto Blue Jays baseball game in a private skybox. Top off the second day of the conference by enjoying a relaxing dinner and waterfront cruise.

For further information, contact Shannon Byck at 416-205-1357 or sbyck@oha.com.



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