

Executive Report

September 3, 2008

Report from the OHA

September ALC Survey: Due September 12

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) is requesting that all hospitals complete a survey this month as part of a series of surveys related to the Alternate Level of Care (ALC) issue facing Ontario hospitals.

The purpose is to collect timely information on the challenge of ALC patients to hospitals in order to provide the OHA with accurate evidence for ongoing discussions with the government on the need for urgent solutions, as well as assessing the impact of proposed solutions. The OHA will continue to share the aggregate data 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 people waiting for alternate levels of care.

Your input is critical to helping the OHA monitor the ALC issue. Please complete the survey no later than 4:00 pm on **Friday, September 12, 2008.**

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

Change of PPAO Procedure Regarding Notations on Form 50

Beginning September 1, 2008, the Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office (PPAO) procedure regarding notations on Form 50 for Applications to the Consent and Capacity Board (CCB) will change. At the present time, where rights advice is provided in

one of eight mandatory situations, regulations to the *Mental Health Act* require the Rights Advisor to provide confirmation that the rights advice has been given to the attending physician or officer in charge. Form 50, Confirmation of Rights Advice, is the approved form used for this purpose.

The PPAO's current policy does not require the facility's physician/officer in charge to provide information on the outcome of the rights advice. Beginning September 1, the Rights Advisor will be required to make a note in Part I of Form 50 on whether the client has applied to the CCB for a hearing, except in the case of a treatment incapacity finding, in which case the Rights Advisor will continue to complete Part II as required by law. A detailed memo, setting out this new procedure, as well as a sample Form 50 to demonstrate the manner in which such notation will be made, is available on the OHA website (www.oha.com), under "Communications - Legislative Issues and Analysis - Other Bills and Legislative Issues - OHA Resources."

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

Agency of Health Protection and Promotion Introduces *Start Up*

The Agency of Health Protection and Promotion has developed a newsletter called *Start Up*, the agency's progress report to the field updating readers on the agency's start up initiatives and laboratory planning. These initiatives include

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Report from the OHA

(Continued)

developing the initial organizational structure and transfer of the staff from the Ontario Public Health Laboratories.

For further information, visit www.oahpp.com or contact Karen Sequeira, Patient Safety and Clinical Best Practice, OHA at 416-205-1328 or ksequeira@oha.com

OACCAC Survey Deadline Extended

The Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres (OACCAC) launched a process earlier this spring to develop a brand strategy that will help them deliver on their vision and mandate to clients, employees and partners. Hospital Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Vice Presidents (VPs) of Patient Services were requested to participate in an online survey to provide their feedback.

The original request was sent on August 26, 2008. The deadline has now been extended to Friday, **September 5, 2008**.

Should you have any questions about the OACCAC survey, contact Linda Leighton-Hall, OACCAC Communications Lead, at 416-640-7733 or Linda.Leighton-Hall@ccac-ont.ca.

For further information, contact Tamarah Harel at 416-205-1346 or tharel@oha.com.



Communicator of the Year Award: Call for Nominations

The OHA is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the *Communicator of the Year Award*. This award will honour one Ontario hospital communicator for his or her outstanding contribution to hospital or provincial communications initiatives.

To be eligible for receipt of the award, nominees must be a member of communications staff (or designate responsible for communication initiatives) at one of the OHA's member

hospitals, organizations or associations. Nominees must demonstrate outstanding work in the field of health care communication, for the betterment of health care in Ontario. A commitment to excellence in communications and involvement in external networks, associations or professional affiliations are essential.

The award selection criteria are based on service, innovation, leadership and excellence. Attainment of these criteria must be demonstrated through submission of supporting documentation.

A link to the submission guidelines has been included in this week's *Executive Update* email. Submissions are due on **October 3, 2008**.

For further information, contact Tamarah Harel at 416-205-1346 or tharel@oha.com.

Early Registration Can Save You up to \$125

Take advantage of the early registration discount and save up to \$125.00, if you register by Friday, September 12, 2008. HealthAchieve2008 will take place on November 3, 4 and 5, 2008, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Delegates are encouraged to register online by visiting www.healthachieve.com.

Book early to ensure your choice of hotel during your stay in Toronto. When making a hotel reservation, identify yourself as a delegate attending HealthAchieve2008 to qualify for the special hotel rates.

For further information regarding registration, program and exhibit floor information and hotel accommodations, call 416-205-1361/416-205-1362 or email healthachieve@oha.com.

Report on Health Care

Ontario *Early Researcher Awards* announced at Bloorview

Research and Innovation Minister John Wilkinson announced funding for 22 Toronto-area research projects worth over \$3 million through the *Early Researcher Awards* (ERA) program on August 27, 2008 at Bloorview Kids Rehab (Bloorview).

The program supports gifted, recently-appointed Ontario researchers in building their research teams of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and research associates.

Dr. Tom Chau, one of the award recipients and also the Director of the Clinical Engineering program at the University of Toronto, received funding for his body talk research, which aims to give children who are unable to speak or move a way to express themselves and control their environment through subtle body processes like breathing pattern and heart rate.

Another award recipient, is training a computer program to decipher body signals – such as breathing pattern, heart rate and skin temperature – then translate them into electronic speech or computer commands.

Other ERA recipients and guests from the University of Toronto, Toronto Rehab, University Health Network, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Ryerson University, York University and Women's College Hospital attended the celebration.

RVHS Seeks Volunteers for Community Advisory Group

Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) has recently announced another step in its plan to strengthen relations with the community. The hospital's board is creating a Community Advisory Group and is inviting dedicated volunteers to join this important effort. The contribution of the advisory group is an important component of RVHS' overall community engagement strategy.

This volunteer body will be an advisory group to the Board of Directors. The 12-member group will reflect the diverse communities and viewpoints that make up the Rouge Valley catchment area of east Toronto, Pickering, Ajax and Whitby.

Membership is open to the general public residing within the RVHS catchment area. Applicants cannot be a Central East LHIN or hospital employee. Advisory group members will provide specific advice and feedback to the RVHS board and will stay connected to the community so that they can speak knowledgeably about local health needs and issues and assist the hospital in its communications efforts.

RVHS will be accepting applications until Sept. 19, 2008. For further information on the RVHS Community Advisory Group, visit www.rougevalley.ca/communitymatters.

Number of MRI and CT Scanners Increases Over Four Years

The supply of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) scanners in Canada has increased significantly over the past four years, according to a new report from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Medical Imaging in Canada, 2007 reports that in 2007, there were 419 CT scanners and 222 MRI machines installed and operational in Canada, up from 325 and 149, respectively, in 2003. In the most recent year, between 2006 and 2007, the number of CT scanners increased by 27 and the number of MRI scanners increased by 21. The rate of MRI and CT exams performed per 1,000 population in Canada rose by 43% and 28%, respectively, in the four years between 2003 and 2007, and rose by 4% and 5%, respectively, in the most recent year.

Despite the increases, Canada, with 12 CT scanners and 6 MRI machines per million population, falls below the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) median of 15 CT scanners and 7 MRI machines per million population in 2005, the latest year for which data are available. To access the full release, visit www.cihi.ca, under "Latest news."

Executive Announcements

Tony Woolgar has left his position as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the South West LHIN. Michael Barrett, Senior Director, Performance, Contract and

Allocation, was designated acting CEO until a replacement is found.

Robert Biron was appointed to the position of President and CEO of Northumberland Hills Hospital, effective November 10, 2008, replacing Joan Ross.

Dr. John Wright was recently appointed as the Scarborough Hospital's new President and CEO.

Report from Queen's Park

Ontario Funds Free Insulin Pumps

Each year, over 1300 adults with type 1 diabetes will receive free insulin pumps under a new Ontario program that begins this September. The government will pay 100% of the price - \$6,300 - for an insulin pump, as well as provide an annual grant of \$2,400 to help pay for supplies.

The Adult Insulin Pump Program is part of the government's \$741 million comprehensive strategy to prevent, manage and treat diabetes which was announced in July of this year. The diabetes strategy supports Ontario's top two health care priorities: improving access to care and reducing emergency wait times by helping to keep Ontarians healthier.

An insulin pump is a small battery-operated device about the size of a pager that is worn on a belt or in a pocket. The device substitutes for self-injections by pumping insulin into the body through a catheter (or a thin tube and very fine needle) inserted under the skin. The catheter is changed regularly, usually two or three times a week.

Applications for insulin pumps and supplies can be made through registered diabetes education centres throughout Ontario. Each centre's program has a multidisciplinary team of health professionals to determine eligibility for an insulin pump as well as to assist in completing the application form. Once registered, the teams provide ongoing care and support.

Preparing for Transition of OPHL

Called for by many experts post SARS, Ontario's newly created Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Agency) is a cornerstone of the Ontario government's intricate and bold plan for public health

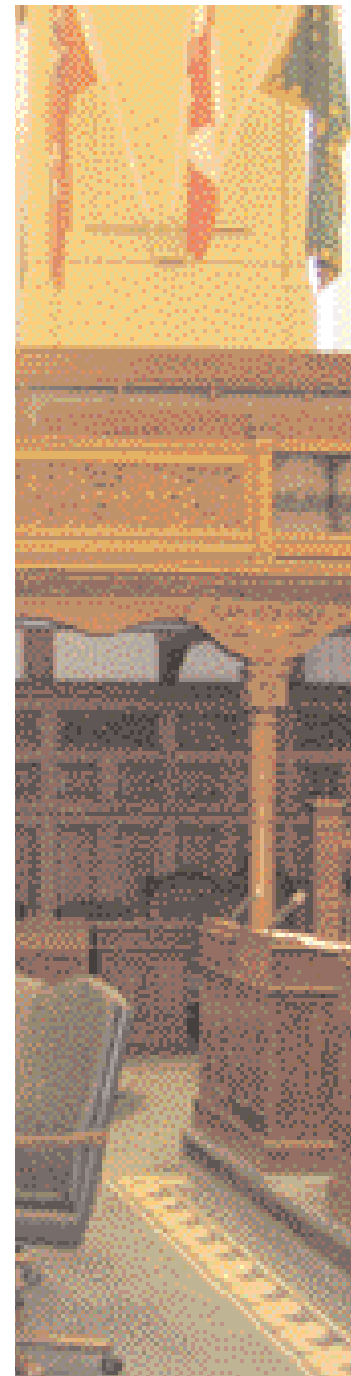
renewal. Established by special legislation with an independent Board of Directors, it has a mandate to protect and promote the health of all Ontarians.

One of the key functions of the Agency will be to provide scientific and laboratory services and expertise. The government has approved the transfer of the 12 Ontario Public Health Laboratories (OPHL) from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to the Agency to take effect by the end of 2008. The Agency continues to actively work with the MOHLTC on the development of agreements and plans for the transfer.

The OPHL is an essential part of Ontario's public health care system, today and in the future. The transfer will strengthen the OPHL role as world-class facilities and will increase its capabilities by integrating testing, surveillance and research.

A number of modernization initiatives are underway at the OPHL, including implementation of a comprehensive Laboratory Information System to improve service levels, turnaround time and information management capabilities. Assessments of OPHL facilities are underway to understand the extent of capital repairs that may be required. As well, and with the prospect of the transfer of the OPHL to the Agency, the OPHL has already been able to recruit a number of scientists and medical epidemiologists from around the world.

Updates on the agency's initiatives are also published in *Start Up*, a newsletter recently developed by the agency as a progress report to the field. For further information, visit the Agency's web site at www.oahpp.ca.



OHA

Conferences

Case Mix September 17, 2008 Toronto

This is the first annual Ontario Case Mix Conference, spanning the continuum of health care and organized by the OHA, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and the MOHLTC.

Ontario's health care researchers and providers are international and national leaders in developing case-mix systems. With the support of the MOHLTC, these systems are being applied across all sectors to form an integral component of assessment protocols, case-mix funding, outcome measurement, quality indicators, and screening algorithms. This year's conference theme will reflect the progress Ontario has made in advancing case-mix methodologies across all health care settings and discuss the changes that lie ahead.

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

Mental Health and Patient Safety: The Beginning of Our Journey September 18 (Evening Reception) & 19, 2008 Toronto

The OHA, in partnership with the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), is pleased to present this one-day national conference on patient safety and mental health which will provide valuable information from international and national leading experts.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the major themes, priority issues and actions for patient safety in mental health; learn about best practices and programs; and share ideas for advancing the patient safety agenda within the mental health sector.

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

Infection Prevention and Control: A Closer Look at Hospital-Acquired Infections October 6, 2008 Toronto

Over the past few months, a great deal of public attention has been focused on hospital-acquired infections (HAIs), as a result of some

widely publicized outbreaks in Ontario hospitals. Undoubtedly, public and media interest in this issue will intensify as Ontario hospitals will be required to publicly report on rates of HAIs in their facilities in the upcoming months.

This annual conference will take a closer look at HAIs and at what your organization can do to prevent an outbreak. Delegates will have the opportunity to listen to informative presentations on surveillance and data collection, creative strategies in improving employee compliance, and how to build a relationship with senior management. One hospital will share their experience and loss due to *C. difficile*, as well as lessons learned since the outbreak. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in round table discussions on hot topics in Infection Prevention and Control, learning from colleagues and experts in the field.

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

Public Reporting of Indicators October 7, 2008 Toronto

On May 28, 2008, the MOHLTC announced new public reporting requirements on eight patient safety indicators as part of a comprehensive plan to create an unprecedented level of transparency in Ontario's hospitals.

This conference will provide the latest developments on the public reporting of indicators and its impact on hospitals. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from leading experts on the requirements of reporting, what to do with the rates, how to manage the indicators, and the challenges and solutions in moving ahead.

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

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OHA Conferences (continued)

Region 1 NE/NC Administrative Professionals Conference

October 7 & 8, 2008

Sudbury

This workshop is designed to provide health care administrative professionals from large or small organizations including hospitals, LHINs, Community Care Access Centres (CCAC), etc., who report to any level of administration, with the tools and information they need to enhance their skill set, boost productivity and bring their best to work and life. The program will feature a mix of presentations, interactive discussion and opportunities to share ideas and challenges with fellow colleagues. Tuesday night's dinner entertainment includes a murder mystery theatre performance.

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

Principles and Applications of Health Law

October 9 & 10, 2008

Penetanguishene

This course provides an introduction and overview of legal issues and concepts that arise in health care institutions, touching on various topics such as principles of business law, principles of civil litigation and risk management, and applications of health law. The course is intended primarily for those in middle management positions, but it will also be of interest to those in senior positions who want to increase their understanding of legal issues.

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

Achieving Excellence in Region 4: Critical Health Issues, Strategies and Solutions

October 20 & 21, 2008

Kitchener

Hospitals are facing growing accountability challenges as well as new patient safety and quality reporting requirements. Relationships with both LHINs and communities are continually evolving. Consequently, boards must manage the growing complexity of health issues that need to be addressed both within hospital communities and the broader health care system. Recognizing these current challenges, this year's conference will highlight challenges, strategies, and solutions regarding patient safety: infection prevention, control and reporting; health human resources; Ontario's e-Health strategy; an update on LHINs; and a panel discussion on community engagement.

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

Incident Management System (IMS) for Health Care Facilities

October 20, 21 & 22, 2008

Toronto

This course is geared toward hospital staff directly involved in the development and operations of emergency management planning and procedures within their organization. It will be of particular interest to individuals who have direct responsibility for safety and security, emergency procedures, and risk managers, including senior administrators, critical care providers, emergency department staff and clinical educators.

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



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