

Executive Report

December 14, 2006

Report from the OHA

Most Responsible Physician

The Physician Hospital Care Committee (PHCC), a tripartite committee with representation from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), has convened an expert working group to examine the issue of Most Responsible Physician, including hospitalists (inpatient physicians), as it relates to the care of hospital inpatients.

In addition to reviewing the issue of Most Responsible Physician as it relates to the care of hospital inpatients, the expert working group will develop models that are clinically appropriate for Ontario's diverse hospital settings (i.e. rural and northern, academic, urban). The process for developing models includes hospital site visits and interviews. Dr. Janice Willett, OMA Co-chair to the PHCC, is leading the expert working group. The working group is composed of a broad array of hospital and physician leaders, including hospitalists, family physicians and specialists, from various types of hospitals.

Long-Term Care Homes Act

Bill 140, the *Long-Term Care Homes Act*, which was introduced by The Honourable George Smitherman in October, was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy for public hearings. If passed, the Act would consolidate the three existing pieces of long-term care legislation: the *Nursing Homes Act*, *Charitable Institutions Act* and *Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act* into one single Act. While dates and locations for public hearings have not yet been made public, the OHA is finalizing its written submission and will provide additional information on public hearings once the dates have been announced. For additional information, contact Melissa Radolli at mradolli@oha.com or 416-205-1322.

Inspiring Ideas and Saving Lives at OHA HealthAchieve

Innovative and interactive displays focusing on health and wellness continue to be an important and popular feature on the OHA

HealthAchieve Exhibit Floor. For the last few years, the OHA's Wellness Studio has showcased a number of wellness-related products and services, including cooking demonstrations, complimentary massage therapy, and a Personal Care Health Centre offering blood pressure and glucose testing. While delegates flock to the Wellness Studio year after year to learn more about their personal health, the Personal Care Health Centre has also provided one additional important benefit - it saves lives!

Since 2004, Beth McCracken, Acting Executive Director at the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario (RPNAO), has tested the blood pressure and glucose of thousands of HealthAchieve delegates. As part of her service, Ms. McCracken also identifies individuals who are "high risk", and recommends that they book an appointment with their physician for further examination. In 2004, numbers for one delegate were dangerous enough for Ms. McCracken to recommend a trip to the closest emergency room for immediate medical attention. The following year, the delegate returned to HealthAchieve to thank her for her help in identifying a deadly condition, and leading them to seek life saving treatment.

At HealthAchieve2006, 607 delegates had their blood pressure tested including 56 who were identified as high risk. Of the 567 delegates that had their glucose tested, 78 were identified as high risk.

OHA Contact List in an Emergency

On November 13, 2006, the OHA issued a bulletin to all hospital CEOs indicating that it is developing a hospital contact list of people who will be acting in incident management-type roles during emergency situations. The OHA requested contact information for the primary and secondary people in these roles. In an effort to obtain a response from all hospitals, over the next week and a half, OHA staff will contact those hospitals from which contact information was not received or if further clarification is required. For further information, contact Karen Sequeira at ksequeira@oha.com or 416-205-1328.

Report on Health Care

New Wing Open at KGH

Kingston General Hospital (KGH) officially opened two renovated operating rooms on December 8, 2006, in a move that could help reduce wait times in the city. Officials cut the ribbon on a \$24-million, 22,000-square-foot expansion, funded by the hospital, the hospital auxiliary, the provincial government and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation.

In addition to the two operating rooms, the new wing of the hospital will provide researchers with a new laboratory and clinical space in which they will study inflammatory bowel diseases including Crohn's disease, colitis and other gastrointestinal illnesses. Hospital CEO Joe de Mora says the two new surgical suites will make a dent in the time people in the city will have to wait for surgeries. "These will have an impact on wait times, especially in the short-term," said de Mora, shortly after the new wing of the hospital was officially opened. There are nearly 4,000 people on waiting lists for operations at the hospital, which has a total of 13 surgical suites.

New Joint Workplan on First Nations Health

On December 7, 2006, the Honourable Tony Clement, Canada's Minister of Health and Phil Fontaine, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, signed a joint workplan developed by a newly formed Task Group that aims to improve the effectiveness of the First Nations health system over the short and long-terms.

The purpose of this Task Group is to provide a forum to explore areas of mutual interest for improving First Nations health. The activities identified in the workplan, including position papers, strategies and/or comparative studies, are expected to be completed in six months after which a progress report will be submitted to both the Minister of Health and the National Chief. This workplan will focus on five key areas, specifically: cross-jurisdictional agreements, sustainability, management and

accountability, performance management, and exploring options for a legislative base in public health.

The Task Group will build upon work that has already begun on First Nations data infrastructure through a partnership between the Assembly of First Nations and the Canadian Institute for Health Research.

New Research Chairs Bolster Childhood Disability Studies

The Bloorview Research Institute announced the creation of three new childhood disability research chairs - representing a \$7 million endowment - at its annual symposium on November 7, 2006. The chairs are in developmental pediatrics, pediatric rehabilitation and social inclusion and participation, said Dr. Colin Macarthur, Director of the Institute and Vice-President of Research at Bloorview Kids Rehab. "They will provide academic leadership through teaching and research at Bloorview and the University of Toronto," Dr. Macarthur said. The chairs were



made possible by endowments through the Bloorview Children's Hospital Foundation and the Bloorview Kids Rehab Foundation and a partnership with the University of Toronto.

Report from Queen's Park

Health System Improvements Bill

On December 12, 2006, the Ontario government introduced the Health System Improvements Act, 2006, a bill which proposes changes to various existing laws. According to a government new release this omnibus bill would, if passed:

- Promote greater accountability – The bill proposes a new medical billing review process and review board for checking physicians' Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) billings, based on the recommendations of the Cory Report. This would include more professional education, payment review, a new review board, and an appeal process that would restore confidence in the system, while maintaining greater accountability to patients, doctors and the government.
- Better protection for patients – The bill would enhance regulatory colleges' complaints procedures by giving patients increased access to information, improve communications and streamline processes.
- Promote public health – The government intends to establish the first-ever Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion – a centre for public health excellence that will provide research, scientific and technical advice and support, modeled after the Centers for Disease Control.
- Increase patient access to services – The government would enhance services that optometrists and dental hygienists provide, and establish new colleges to regulate four more health professions – naturopathy, homeopathy, kinesiology and psychotherapy. In addition to regulating Traditional Chinese Medicine, this is the first time since 1991 that new colleges have been established to regulate new health professions.

Former Senator Kirby to Review Wait Times Reporting

The Ontario government has asked former Senator Michael Kirby to independently review the Ontario Auditor General's concerns on how the province measures and reports on its wait times strategy and provide advice for improvement, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced on December 7, 2006.

The government is asking Senator Kirby to:

- Review the Auditor General's concerns and the

government's progress made to date to further improve upon the work already underway

- Review the existing methodology of how wait times are calculated and reported on the government's public website www.ontariowaittimes.com
- Provide additional recommendations that would further enhance public confidence in the accuracy and usability of information provided on the public website.

In October 2005, the province began reporting on wait times for five key health service areas – hip and knee replacements, cataract surgery, cancer surgery, MRI/CT exams and selected cardiac procedures.

Ontario Government Thanks Chief Medical Officer of Health

The Ontario government thanked Dr. Sheela Basrur, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, for her outstanding service to the province of Ontario. On December 6, 2006, Dr. Basrur announced that she will be stepping down from her role due to personal health concerns. Dr. Basrur has a long list of accomplishments during her tenure as Chief Medical Officer of Health. She was instrumental in proposing Ontario's first arms-length agency for health protection, she led the development of the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy, she launched a review of all 36 health units across the province with the goal of strengthening health unit capacity; and she laid the groundwork for an extensive examination of the programs and services that are delivered by public health units in Ontario.

Prior to joining the provincial government, Dr. Basrur served as the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto, one of the largest public health bodies in North America. Her leadership and expertise on behalf of the City of Toronto during the SARS crisis is well known. Dr. George Pasut will be the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health while a search for a permanent replacement is underway. Dr. Pasut is currently with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as the Executive Lead of Public Health System Transformation. He was the Medical Officer of Health in Simcoe County for nine years, and prior to that, worked for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for seven years.



OHA Conferences

Legislative Issues Update Conference January 19, 2007 Holiday Inn on King, Toronto

The provincial government has introduced a number of bills key to the operation of Ontario's health care system, since taking office and seems poised to continue this trend by enacting additional pieces of legislation that seek to change the way health care is delivered. Key legislation that will be reviewed at this conference includes:

- Bill 211, the Ending Mandatory Retirement Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005;
- Bill 140, the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2006;
- Bill 142, Transparency in Public Matters Act, 2006 (formerly Bill 123);
- Bill 50, Traditional Chinese Medicine Act, 2006;
- Bill 171, Changes to the Regulated Health Professions Act; and
- Bill 124, the Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006.

For further information, contact Brian Shields at bshields@oha.com or 416-205-1455.

Adult Education Leadership & Learning in the Knowledge Organization January 22, - 24, 2007

Participants in this program will learn to apply adult learning principles to workplace settings. This course is particularly valuable for anyone who:



leads instructional sessions, makes presentations; provides information or directions to stakeholders; is interested in fostering "learning organization" principles or; simply wants to learn more about the nature of learning.

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

Incident Management System for Health Care Facilities January 29 - 31, 2007 OHA Offices

This course is aimed at hospital staff 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 responsibility for safety, security and emergency procedures, including: risk managers, senior administrators, critical care providers, emergency department staff and clinical educators.

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

Patient Safety: Teamwork & Communications January 30 - 31, 2007 Holiday Inn on King, Toronto, ON

Patient safety has always been, and continues to be, a priority for Ontario's hospitals. Recognizing that communication and teamwork are key to strengthening patient safety practices, the OHA is pleased to offer a pre-conference workshop and conference on the importance of teamwork and communication. Topics will include:

- The nature and structure of teams;
- Teamwork tools;
- Team requirements / organized performance;
- The importance of assertive communication; and
- The use of SBAR (Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation).

Attendance for the pre-conference workshop is limited to 40 delegates. Early registration is recommended. For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at sbyckmunday@oha.com or 416-205-1357.



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